THURSDAY
July 11, 2024

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Apple warns two users of Pegasus-like spyware

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SMUGGLING RACKET EXPOSED

108 kg gold biscuits seized near Ladakh-China border

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ALL-ROUND SHOW

Gill and bowlers give India a 2-1 lead in T20I series

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West Bengal suit against CBI probes maintainable: SC

Plea raises 'questions concerning the wider ramifications of federalism', Bench observes, dismissing Centre's claim that the CBI is 'independent'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the maintainability of an original suit filed by West Bengal, which accuses the Centre of "constitutional overreach" and violating federalism by unilaterally employing the Central Bureau of Investigation without the State's prior consent.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta refused to accept the Union government's preliminary objection that it was wrongly made a defendant in the suit as it did not control the CBI. "The very establishment, exercise of powers, extension of jurisdiction, the superintendence of the DSPE [Act], all vest with the Government of India," Justice Gavai, authoring the verdict, said.

The court reminded the Centre that the DSPE Act mandated the State's prior consent to a CBI probe within its jurisdiction.

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Key takeaways

In rejecting the Centre's claim that it did not control the CBI, the court clarified the hierarchy of operations

CBI officials in Nadia, West Bengal. PTI

- The CBI is an organ or a body which is established by and which is under the superintendence of the Government of India
- The powers of superintendence of the Centre will not relate to the superintendence of investigation of a particular case
- The CBI will be entitled to investigate the offences independently. However, that will not water down the administrative control and superintendence of the DSPE that vests with the Centre

Divorced Muslim women entitled to secular remedy: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that divorced Muslim women are entitled to maintenance under the "secular" Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The court agreed with *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, that a remedy under the secular statutory provision of Section 125 of the Cr.PC cannot be foreclosed for divorced Muslim women by virtue of enactment of a personal law remedy under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986. A divorced Muslim woman is entitled to all rights of maintenance available to other equally situated women in the country.

A separate but concurring judgment by a two-judge Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Augustine Goerge Masih came on an appeal filed by a Muslim man challenging a Telangana High Court decision upholding though modifying a Family Court order allowing his wife, whom he had divorced via *triple talaq*, interim maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC.

The top court was hearing an appeal against a Telangana High Court order in the matter.

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NEARBY

'Six locations being considered for airport'

BENGALURU
The State government will need to acquire 3,000 to 5,000 acres of land for setting up a new international airport as big as Kempegowda International Airport and it is considering six locations for the project, Minister M.B. Patil has said. » Page 3

No dearth of funds: CM

MYSURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Wednesday that there was no dearth of funds to implement the welfare projects announced in the State Budget and accused the BJP of "peddling lies". » Page 4

Tragedy on Expressway

The police inspect a bus involved in an accident with a milk tanker on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Unnao, U.P., on Wednesday. Eighteen persons were killed and 21 injured. PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

Valmiki corporation scam: ED searches premises of two MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/KALABURAGI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) simultaneously searched over 20 premises linked to accused and suspects in the alleged scam at the State-run Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation, where funds up to ₹88 crore were allegedly embezzled.

Premises linked to two ruling Congress MLAs – Ballari Rural MLA B. Nagendra, who resigned as Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare on June 6 after the scam broke out, and Raichur Rural MLA Basanagouda Daddal, who is chairman of the corporation.

When last checked before going to print, the searches were continuing. The ED has detained one Harish, PA to Mr. Nagendra. He was taken to the ED office in Bengaluru and is being questioned, sources said.

A view of the apartment complex in Bengaluru where the Enforcement Directorate searched the flat of former Minister B. Nagendra on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The raids came a day after Mr. Nagendra and Mr. Daddal were questioned by SIT on July 9. Till date, the SIT has arrested 11 persons and seized ₹14.5 crore. The duo was supposed to appear before SIT on Wednesday and after a notice was issued, they will have to appear before SIT on Thursday. Others raided by the ED include key accused J. J. Padmanabh, managing director of the corporation, Parashuram, an accountant at the corporation, and three employees of the Union Bank of India, M. G. Road branch in Bengaluru where the alleged money laundering happened.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

CJI: Caste discrimination in prisons must end

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday indicated its intention to ask the Union Home Ministry to intervene with the States to overhaul their prison manuals and wipe out hardly acknowledged but existing practices of caste-based discrimination of prisoners.

Though States such as Uttar Pradesh denied caste-based discrimination within their prison walls, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud read out portions from its prison documents, which use terms such as "scavenger class".

At one point, he referred to a paragraph which said convicts serving simple imprisonment would not be called on to perform menial or degrading duties unless they belonged to a class or community "accustomed" to such work.

Senior advocate S. Muralidhar and advocate Prasanna S., appearing for petitioner-journalist Sukanya Shantha, pointed out that in Madhya Pradesh, if a convict was a member of a denotified tribe, he or she would automatically be seen as a habitual criminal. "This ground reality has to be altered," Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked.

Periodic visits

The court mooted involving the legal services authorities, at the district and State levels, to do periodic visits to jails to check on prisoners. It reserved the case for judgment.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

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Changing lives — one at a time

My mission is to educate parents and players on what it takes to become a champion, how they should view sports and emphasise the importance of playing sports; Through our programme in Hyderabad, we aim at children developing a love for physical activity which leads to a healthy lifestyle, says Sreekar

Kamesh Srinivasan

Playing cricket for India is a dream career. No other job in the country gets as much attention!

With India winning the T20 World Cup for the second time, in such a breathtaking fashion and the emotional scenes thereafter, it has been reinforced that cricket's power to unite is unparalleled in the nation.

And what a reception the team got upon returning home!

Yet, for every dream that finds its path to glory, there are many million that lose track along the way. There are no guarantees that if you follow a time-tested trajectory, you will achieve success. It is as much true in sports, as in life.

Indian cricket has a fabulous structure. If you have the talent and the determination, you can indeed find your way forward. But, the process is not easy. For most, everything is new, and before they get on the right track, they go astray, for lack of guidance.

The champions do tell their stories, but their pathway is hard to follow. Their stories are also far too good to relate for everyone.

More than the success stories. it is the failures that fetch us the best lessons.

That point is so beautifully proven by Sreekar Mothukuri, a computer engineer, who could not fulfil his dream of playing cricket for the national team.

Passion for life

It was not just in India that he could not make progress in cricket, but missed the bus despite being in the USA for 10 years, playing cricket all the time.

"I played leather ball and tennis ball cricket matches on weekends in every State I lived – Arizona, Atlanta, St. Louis, Columbus and Houston – in the USA. During weekdays I played tennis and volleyball," he recalled.

Sreekar returned to India in 2016, before cricket became this big in America.

"I am still in touch with my friends. I heard that some of the players currently in the US team also played in the team that I was part of, in Atlanta," Sreekar recalls with pride.

There is no doubt that cricket has a brilliant future in America.

"The leagues are becoming bigger and better year by year. Parents are investing a lot in their child's cricketing career. A lot of infrastructure is being built to accommodate many teams playing their matches on weekends. When I was there, every house had a nice backyard with a barbecue setup. Whereas now, most parents are installing cricket nets in their backyard to make their children practice cricket. Every weekends, parents are taking their children to different cities for tournaments," said Sreekar, giving an insight to the fascinating stage of cricket in the United States.

It is a regular practice in India that parents put their children in cricket academies for about two months during the summer vacation.

"From what I have heard from friends in Atlanta, there is a push to introduce cricket at the school level," he said.

As a kid growing up in Telangana, Sreekar fell madly in love with cricket after watching Sachin Tendulkar play.

However he did not have any guidance about pursuing a career in professional cricket. With him being not so good in studies, his parents put him in a boarding school.

Familiar tale for all

When he was in the seventh grade, Sreekar started persuading his parents, both government employees, to register him in a cricket academy.

"My parents and family members told me that it was already too late, citing the fact that Sachin Tendulkar started playing for India when he was in the tenth standard," he remembered.

Every time he made a request to get into cricket, his parents kept asking him to focus on his studies, first tenth grade, then twelfth, a degree and a job, before he could get into cricket.

"I was unhappy at that point, but now I understand their concern, considering how risky it was to become a cricketer, especially back then when there weren't many opportunities or leagues like we have today," he opined.

Sreekar did get a chance to try cricket for a year before he took up a job. However, he recalls that seven of the 14 matches in the season were rained off, in the league he played in in Hyderabad.

"I was 21. I realised that becoming a cricketer was not a one-year affair. I took up a job and worked in the corporate world for 14 years in India and USA. Despite earning well, I always looked forward to playing tennis in the evenings and cricket on weekends," said Sreekar.

The unfulfilled dream made Sreekar reflect on his journey and realise that lack of guidance as the major stumbling block. He had visited libraries but could not find a book that could show the way in sports.

Problem-solver

So, he chose to write the books himself. He has done three of them, each one a superb effort in its own way, in throwing light on the path to sports.

He had been researching for over a decade, travelling and meeting many champions in different games, coaches and other experts, interviewing them to gather precious knowledge. He put them all into well-structured books that "aims to help aspiring sports parents and players with the information necesssary to nurture a champion."

The first book, *Behind a Sports Champion*, features interviews with players, parents, coaches and other experts about their journey.

"This book is intended for parents and children who are already on their journey and seek guidance," he said, grateful to all the experts who readily shared their knowledge to benefit future generations.

The second, *Child to Champion*, is meant for parents who are at the start of the sporting journey of their children.

"It provides a step-by-step process on what parents should do at different age groups and warn them about the potential pitfalls along the journey," he pointed out.

The third, *Pathway to cricketing excellence and beyond*, is a real fire cracker. A book that lends tremendous clarity on every aspect and stage, with tons of inspiring quotes that make it spellbinding reading.

"This book targets children, parents and coaches, the three crucial pillars of a champion's success. It discusses the qualities and roles each must fulfill on their sporting journey," he said, capturing the essence of the dynamic book.

The third book is in fact a holistic book to develop any career, not just cricket. Sreekar has written the book with the cricket coach and mentor of several cricketers, Jwala Singh.

"It is easy for anyone in India to connect to cricket and that is the target of the book, to package knowledge in a form that is sought.

"This book provides a 360-degree coverage in every aspect of life. It includes numerous cricket stories. By simply changing the stories, you can apply this book to any sport or aspect of life. The focus of the book is achieving excellence in anything you pursue," said Sreekar.

While one could race through the book owing to its gripping nature, it may not be that easy for everyone in today's time where reading is not a popular habit, especially for the young generation.

"The book will be improved with more photos and illustrations. I need to find the right team to execute the plan. In fact my goal is to write short storybooks for children with illustrations and sports as a medium to reach life lessons, targeting the 8-14 age group", he said.

Of course, with online sale, distribution of any book is not an issue. Sreekar has the books selling well both in India and the USA.

Sreekar is also toying with the idea of making short video clips to spread precious knowledge.

From being a cricket fanatic, Sreekar had grown into a sports fanatic, but the call from his co-author Jwala Singh helped him get back to the universal language that is cricket in India.

"I first met Jwala sir in 2019 when I went to Mumbai to interview him for my first book. Later, I sent him a copy of that book. In 2022, I got a call from him saying that he wanted to write a book and needed help. I was excited. We put both our experience into the book. It was launched in Mumbai by Dilip Vengsarkar, Chaminda Vaas and Wasim Jaffer," said Sreekar, quite pleased to have come a full circle with the fascinating willow game.

> The first goal should be to stay healthy and active. Then, learn the life lessons that sports teach. If the children become champions in the process, it is the icing on the cake

New beginnings

Wedded to sports, Sreekar runs a company called, "Its PlayTime", that offers sports readiness program for children in the 3-8 age group in schools in Hyderabad.

"Today many parents are encouraging their children to pursue sports due to the rise of various sports leagues, Indian athletes performing well on the international stage, and increased career opportunities.

"However, there is still a lack of system or resources to guide them in the right direction. As a result, many parents make costly mistakes, wasting time, energy and resources," said Sreekar as his perennial concern is to provide the best guidance, without viewing it all as an exciting business opportunity.

"My mission is to educate parents and players on what it takes to become a champion, how they should view sports and emphasise the importance of playing sports. Through my program in Hyderabad, we aim at children developing a love for physical activity which leads to a healthy life style. After all, how can they enjoy success in their careers without being in good health," asked Sreekar.

It will be hard to understand Sreekar's passion for cricket till we know what he packed when he left for the USA.

"Generally, when anyone goes to the USA for the first time for college or job, they carry cooking utensils and a few groceries in one piece of luggage, and their clothes in another. I packed only one bag at home, and my parents kept asking about my other bag so that they could pack the utensils. I told them that one of my friends had it and would bring it directly to the airport. When my friend brought the bag to the airport, they were surprised to see my cricket kit. I had prepared it and left it at my friend's place. Another friend had told me that they did play cricket in USA," recalled Sreekar.

> When I was there, every house had a nice backyard with a barbecue setup. Whereas now, most parents are installing cricket nets in their backyard to make their children practice cricket.

Now, we all know that cricket is played in the USA, and the American team is capable of taking the big strides as evidenced by its landmark win against Pakistan in the T20 World Cup.

With Los Angeles set to have cricket in the 2028 Olympics, America has already been sold on the cricket dream. The T20 World Cup further boosted it for the Americans.

For all those aspiring to make a mark, there is a ready reckoner in Sreekar's work.

"I was fulfilling a long-term dream and started playing tennis. I first saw Roger Federer on TV in 2005 and was mesmerised by his game. I used to attend the US Open and Cincinnati Open to watch him play," he said.

He did meet Federer a few times. Of course, he gave himself the opportunity to meet a myriad of Indian sports stars, Kapil Dev, Sachin Tendulkar, PV Sindhu and a few dozen others, not just for his project of unraveling sporting champions and understanding their journeys, but also as a huge sports fan.

Getting into sports is always a win-win situation in Sreekar's perspective.

"The first goal should be to stay healthy and active. Then, learn the life lessons that sports teach. If the children become champions in the process, it is the icing on the cake," he said.

Sreekar Mothukuri may not have achieved much as a sportsperson, but is in the forefront when it comes to offering the best guidance in the world of sports. It is a wholehearted effort with the purity of thought, to just benefit everyone with rich knowledge.

THE GIST

- Indian cricket has a fabulous structure. If you have the talent and the determination, you can indeed find your way forward. But, the process is not easy
- The unfulfilled dream of becoming made Sreekar reflect on his journey and realise that lack of guidance as the major stumbling block. He had visited libraries but could not find a book that could show the way in sports. So, he chose to write the books himself
- Wedded to sports, Sreekar runs a company called, "Its PlayTime", that offers sports readiness program for children in the 3-8 age group in schools in Hyderabad

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Multiple autonomous corporations to mimic Assembly in how they are run

Each corporation will have multiple zones, which will send a representative to the Greater Bengaluru Authority

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Sources said the State government is keen on creating five municipal corporations. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

GREATER BENGALURU GOVERNANCE BILL, 2024

The draft of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, submitted to the State government recently, provides for multiple corporations in the mid-level with a Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) led by the Chief Minister as the apex layer and empowered ward committees at the ground level, as part of a three-tier structure.

It provides for the creation of one to ten corporations in the city, which together can have up to 400 wards. Sources said the State government is now keen on creating five municipal corporations.

The draft Bill overhauls the way these corporations work, in a way contrary to how the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) functions. In all aspects, the proposed corporations will mimic the State Assembly and Parliament in its conduct.

Presently, the Mayor presides over the Council and the standing committees are critical to its functioning. In the proposed Bill, the standing committee system is done away with and is replaced by a Mayor-in-Council, which, like a Cabinet, can expand up to 12 members, including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Members of the Mayor-in-Council will be assigned specific departments. The Council will have a chairperson whose function is similar to that of the Speaker of the Assembly or Lok Sabha.

More importantly, the Mayor-in-Council has executive powers over the corporation and the commissioner, an IAS officer though nominated by the State government, will report to the Mayor, which is not the case in BBMP. Sources in the Brand Bengaluru Committee, which submitted the draft Bill, said a Mayor-in-Council will bring more transparency and accountability.

Each corporation will have multiple zones, which will send a representative to the GBA, the apex layer of city governance. Each zone will have a zonal commissioner and a zonal committee, which will not just include councillors, but MLAs too. However, these zonal committees will have no executive power. The corporations are financially autonomous and can raise their revenues, subject to some standard practices set by the GBA. The GBA cannot take away any revenue generated by a corporation, even as it will try to bring in equity between the corporations through state and union government grants. A more prosperous corporation will receive fewer capital grants from the State, while a poorer corporation will receive more.

These corporations will conduct all municipal functions like the BBMP, except for subjects like storm-water drains that traverse across the city, and multiple corporations have to be involved. However, the corporations are entitled to carry out even large projects that fall entirely within their jurisdiction alone but are subject to approval from GBA.

(This is part of a series on Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024)

31.02% pass class 10 annual exam-2

Out of 2,23,293 candidates who appeared for the exam, 69,275 students passed. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) declared the Class 10 (SSLC) annual exam-2 results on Wednesday. The overall pass percentage is 31.02%, despite awarding grace marks to the students.

The KSEAB awarded 20% grace marks for annual exam-1, and the same policy was followed for annual exam-2. Though all students have been awarded grace marks, the board hasn't disclosed the number of students who benefited from grace marks.

Out of 2,23,293 candidates who appeared for the exam, 69,275 students passed. A total of 38,820 boys, 30,455 girls, and 27,955 students from urban areas and 41,320 students from rural regions passed the annual exam-2.

The State government introduced the three annual examination system for the class 10 and II PU, instead of supplementary exams. The best of the three scores will be considered as final marks.

Annual exam-3 in Aug.

Class 10 annual exam-3 will be held between August 2 and 9, and July 17 is the last date for registration. To apply for revaluation and retotaling, July 18 is the last date. To apply for the photocopy of the answer script the last date is July 15.

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The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the work	Approx. value
OHE Modification for Provision of FOBs at HITNAL (HTNL), HALLIGUDI (HAG) and SISVINHALLI (SVHE) Railway Station.	Rs. 39,26,982.00

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 31-07-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution Hubli

PUB/240/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our client **Mr. Lokesh T. R. S/o Sri. T. M. Rangappa,** is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder, having acquired the same via Sale Deed dated 19/02/2018, registered as document bearing No. NGB-1-10056-2017-18, in Book I, stored in C. D. No. NGBD327, in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Nagarabavi, Bangalore.

Our client is desirous of dealing with the Schedule Property by way of Sale/Mortgage or as he desires to do so. Any person/s entitles having any claim, right, title or interest over the schedule properties or any part thereof in any manner objecting the Gift Deed or the ownership of our client over the Schedule Property may lodge their claim with documentary proof with the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of this public notice and any claim or objection received thereafter will not be binding over the aforesaid properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Northern portion of the **Site No. 105,** Assessment No. 135/1 and 136, Khata No. 175, situated at **Kempegowda Nagar Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** BBMP Ward No. 72, measuring East to West 40 Feet, North to South 24 Feet, in all measuring **960 Square Feet,** along with 2 Square R.C.C. roofed house constructed thereon constructed with cement and bricks with red oxide flooring and Doors and Windows are made out of jungle wood. It as electricity and all other basic amenities and bounded on:

East by : Road, West by : Site No.106, North by : Site No.104, South by : Southern portion of the same property bearing Site No. 105

Vinod. R., ADVOCATE,
STERLING LAW ASSOCIATES,
#1656, Balaji Nilayam,
1st Cross, Mariyappanpalya, Rajajinagar,
Bangalore-560021. Ph : 91+7411531524
Place: Bengaluru Date: 10/07/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client Arul Kumar .G intends to purchase property bearing No.43, PID No.21-69-43, (as per BBMP Computerized Katha), situated at 13" 'E' Cross, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560 079, (Previously Site No.2 formed in Sy.No.114/3 of Sanaguravanahalli Village, Yashawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk) measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet and totally measuring 1200 square feet, more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its owner Sri. Marigowda J.H. Residing at No.57, Shree Nilaya, 2nd Main Road, Ekadhantha Nagara, Herohalli, Bengaluru 560 091. Any person having right, title, interest, claim, objections or whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property may file their objections with documentary proof to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received within the said period, our Client will proceed to complete the proposed sale transaction presuming that above mentioned person is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and that there are no other Claimants.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing No.43, PID No.21-69-43, (as per BBMP Computerized Katha), situated at 13" 'E' Cross, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bengaluru - 560 079, (Previously Site No.2 formed in Sy.No.114/3 of Sanaguravanahalli Village, Yashawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk) measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet and totally measuring 1200 Square feet, along with the building therein and bounded on the:

East by : Property belonging to Lakkanna; West by : Road; North by: Property belonging to Kamalasab; South by: Property belonging to Puttamma;

Vivek Sethia, Advocate
Witlegal, Advocates & Solicitors
No.1080, 8th Main Road, Vijayanagar
Bengaluru-560 040. Mob: +918431670655

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajesh R R/o Rajesh.r F/o Roy Clister.r # 48, Krishnagiri Line, Marikuppam Post, Kgf - 563119, Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Rian Clister. R To Roy Clister. R for all further purpose.

I, PRITHVI, S/o Uday Ravi Alegavi, R/at No. OMQ 51/1, Officers Enclave, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063, have changed my name from Prithvi to Prithvi Uday vide affidavit dated 09/07/2024 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, PRAJWAL, S/o Uday Ravi Alegavi, R/at No. OMQ 51/1, Officers Enclave, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063, have changed my name from Prajwal to Prajwal Uday vide affidavit dated 09/07/2024 before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, Jyothy Geetha Mohankumar resident of Karunakaram house, Kolammackal, Padimon P. O, Mallappally,Pathanamthitta, Kerala, Pin: 689587 born on 09/03/1990 have changed my name to Jyothi Geetha Mohankumar for all future purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE At. Krishnarajanagara (Appellate Jurisdiction) In the Matter of Regular Appeal in R.A No. 33 of 2017

APPELLANT : Janab. Althaf Ahmed Shariff and Another

RESPONDENTS :

2 c) - Begum. Anjum Farzana, Daughter of Late Janab. Mohammed Musthaq Ahamed, Wife of Janab. Ahmed Shariff, Aged about 42years, Residing at Door No. 63, 5th Cross, Kanakanagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560032.

2(d) - Janab. Mohsin Pasha, Son of Late Janab, Mohammed Musthaq Ahamed, Aged about 45years, Residing at Door No. 81 Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bengaluru - 560046.

9(a) - Begum. Hajira Fathima, Wife of Faheem Hussain Shariff, Aged about 54 years, Residing at No. 37, 11th - D Cross, APJ Abdul Kalam Main Road, Umar Nagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560045.

9(b) - Janab. Ahamed Shariff, Son of Janab. Mohammed Shariff, Aged about 46 years, Residing at No. 63, 5th Cross, Kanaka Nagar, Bengaluru North Bengaluru - 560032.

9(d) - Begum. Anees Fathima, Daughter of Janab. Mohammed Shariff, Aged about 41 years, Residing at Ameer Jaan Road, Gundulpet, ChamarajaNagar - - 571111.

9(f) - Janab. Amjed Shariff, Son of Janab. Mohammed Shariff, Aged about 40 years, Residing at No. 423, 3rd Main, Near Makkaram Mosque, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - 560032.

9(g) - Janab. Asjad Shariff, Son of Janab. Mohammed Shariff, Aged about 23 years, Residing at No. 61, 5th Main Road, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru - - 560032.

COURT NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS

Respondents No. 2(c),2(d), 9(a), 9(b), 9(d), 9(f) and 9(g),

Whereas the above named appellant has lodged this appeal arising out of Judgement and decree passed in O.S. No. 496 of 2012 on the file of Principal Civil Judge at Krishnarajanagara.

Whereas Take Notice that you are required to appear in person or through authorized agent on 30-7-2024 fixed for hearing.

Given under Seal and Signature of this Court on 18-6-2024 day of month of June 2024.

- / By The Order of Court Chief Ministerial Officer, Senior Civil Judge, Krishnarajanagara.

Advocate for the Appellant Shri. Mahadeva Deshak, Advocate, Chamber : Deshak Law Reigns, No. 37, Venjay Edifice, III Floor, Jhansi Lakshmi Bai Road, Chamarajapuram, Mysuru - 570005.

Experts' panel wants new integrated agricultural and horticultural university

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Expert committee's recommendations

- The proposed Mandya university will have both agriculture and horticulture streams
- It will include the districts of Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, and Kodagu
- Geographical jurisdiction of UAS-B will be six districts instead of 10
- UAS-B too should become an integrated university now
- UAS-Dharwad, UAS-Raichur, and UHS-Bagalkot should become integrated ones in a phased manner

The bifurcation of the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru (UAS-B) appears to be imminent as the experts' committee set up by the State government has recommended setting up a new integrated university of agriculture and horticulture sciences at V.C. Farm in Mandya by including some of the districts that currently come under the UAS-B.

Following concerns raised by some experts to the proposal of carving out a new Mandya University of Agriculture Sciences by bifurcating the UAS-Bengaluru, the government constituted an experts' committee to study the feasibility.

The committee led by former UAS-B Vice-chancellor Rajendraprasad recommended that instead of an agriculture university, the proposed one should be an integrated one. It has also recommended that the proposed university should include the districts of Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, and Hassan from UAS-B and Kodagu from UAHS-Shivamogga under its jurisdiction.

The committee has recommended that the UAS-B, whose geographical jurisdiction would now be reduced to six districts from the earlier 10, should also be converted into an integrated university of agriculture and horticulture sciences.

Similarly, it recommended that the other universities – UAS-Dharwad, UAS-Raichur and University of Horticultural Sciences-Bagalkote – should also be turned into integrated universities in a phased manner.

The main basis for granting the new agricultural and horticultural university in Mandya by the experts' committee is that the Mysuru revenue division – which includes Mandya – is the only division in the state without any agriculture, horticulture or veterinary university.

Also, it observed that creating additional seats in the realm of agriculture and horticulture sciences by setting up a new university is necessary in the wake of nearly one lakh students applying for admission to these seats.

The experts' committee said the proposed university in Mandya would require a total financial requirement of ₹285.89 crore, which includes a one-time financial requirement of ₹207 crore. It also estimated the requirement of 797 staff with an annual financial outlay of ₹ 56.65 crore. Of them, 308 are already available under the existing institutions.

The other members of the committee are UAS-Dharwad Vice-chancellor P. L. Patil, retired registrar of UAS-B A. B. Patil, retired administrative officer of UAS-B Dr. K. M. Harini Kumar and retired joint secretary of the Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms Chandrahas G. Talukara while UAS-Dharwad's Director of Education V. R. Kiresur is the member secretary.

Madras HC judge questions Shobha's claim over cafe blast

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday questioned the basis on which Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje on March 19 claimed that the bombers involved in The Rameshwaram Cafe blast in Bengaluru, on March 1, had been trained in Tamil Nadu.

Justice G. Jayachandran raised the query during the hearing of a petition filed by the Minister to quash a First Information Report (FIR) registered against her by the Madurai city cyber crime police on the basis of a complaint lodged by a local resident C. Thiagarajan on March 20.

The FIR quash petition was filed in the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court but got transferred to the principal seat of the High Court in Chennai and listed before Justice Jayachandran since he holds the portfolio for cases booked against sitting as well as former legislators.

In her petition, the Minister denied the charge of having pitted Kannadigas against the Tamils by claiming that the bombers were trained in Tamil Nadu. She said it was a figment of the complainant's imagination though her intention was only to raise concerns about the state of internal security in Tamil Nadu.

She also claimed to have apologised to the people of Tamil Nadu and retracted the comments made to the media by tweeting through her X handle on March 19 itself.

On the other hand, Government Advocate (criminal side) K.M.D. Muhilan requested the court to watch a video clip of the interview given by the Minister, to the media, in order to assess the tone and tenor in which she had claimed that "people come from Tamil Nadu, get trained there and plant bombs here (in Karnataka)."

He said there was no official statement from the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which was probing the Rameshwaram Cafe blast, about the accused involved in the offence. Yet, the Union Minister had gone about making public statements intended at promoting enmity between two groups of people.

When the petitioner's counsel objected to the playing of the video clip before the court, the Government Advocate requested time for the appearance of Advocate General P.S. Raman on behalf of the prosecution.

The judge accepted his request and adjourned the FIR quash petition to Friday for further hearing.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby notified that our client Smt. N NAGAMMA alias NAGAMANI W/o Sri. S M Basavaraju has lost original Sale Deed dated 03.01.2001, Bearing Document No. 3178/2000-01, in Book-1, Volume 62 at Pages 192 to 197, Registered at the office of the Additional District Registrar, Bangalore Urban District, Bangalore pertaining to the residential property Bearing Municipal No. 408, Situated at 4th 'G' Main Road, II Block, Hennur Road Banaswadi Road Layout, Bangalore-560043, having PID No. 89-398-4GM-408, measuring East to West 18.30 Meter and North to South 12.20 Meter in all measuring 223.26 Square Meters, coming under the limits of BBMP and bounded on the: East by : Site No. 5M-407, West by : 4th Main Road, North by : Site No. 4G.M-410 and South by : Site No. 4G.M-406. In this regard a Police Complaint dated 09.07.2024 has been filed/lodged by our client with Karnataka State Police in Lost Report No.1137752/2024. If any person/s finds the said document kindly inform the advocate stated herein. If any person/s misuses the said document, the same is not binding on our clients and they shall do so at their own risk.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774,
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Smt.Pavithra.N** W/o Suresh Babu, (9343004340) R/at. No.449, 8th cross, 2nd stage, Hebbala Mysore, had negotiated to purchase the Schedule property from **Smt. Jyothi.R** W/o. Rajagopal, residing at No.42, near Anjineya swamy Temple, Thippenahalli, Nagasandra post, Bangalore-560 073, Any person/s claiming any manner of right, title, and interest over the schedule property called upon to lodge such claim/s or objection with the under signed in writing with supporting documents with in 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication. If no such objection or claims are received within the set period failing which my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property same as "Free from claims of whatsoever manner " and no claims shall be entrained later.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No.213, V.P Khatha No.42/213 formed in converted Sy.No.102/3 and 102/4 of Arishinakunte Village, Generally called Vijay Vittal Badavane, presently comes under Town Municipal council, Ward No.01, Nelamangala, property No.5033070816, Old No.42/13, situated at Arishinakunte Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring East - West : 50ft and North - South : 30ft, totally 1500 sq.ft with constructed 4 square ACC Sheet roofed Old house and having all civic amenities bounded on : East by : Road; West by : Site No.201; North by : Site No.214; South by : Site No.212.

RAGHU .V.L. Advocate,
No.792/1, 1st Floor, C.M. Nilaya,
T.Dasarahalli, Tumkur Road
Bangalore-57. (Mobile No. 9980311276)
Place: Bangalore Date: 10-07-2024

I-Day flower show in Bengaluru to showcase life of Ambedkar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This year's Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh Botanical Garden in Bengaluru, organised by the Horticulture Department, will be held from August 8 to 19. The theme will be Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's life and achievements.

The famous flower show is organised twice every year in the Glass House of Lalbagh - during Republic Day and Independence Day. The event attracts lakhs of visitors. The 2024 Republic Day flower show, which was designed on the theme of social reformer Basavanna's life and other vachanakaras, attracted a record 5.61 lakh visitors bringing in revenue of ₹2.58 crore.

For the show in August, along with floral models, information boards and busts will be used to depict the life of Dr. Ambedkar.

While the main floral pieces have not been decided yet, the major attraction is most likely to be the floral model of Parliament House with a statue of Dr. Ambedkar holding the Constitution in his hand. A team of experts, along with officials from the department, will take the final call on the centre piece and other subthemes for the show.

Five lakh potted plants

The department will use over five lakh potted plants for floral arrangements this year while the quantity of cut flowers will be decided after the models are finalised.

There will be no changes in ticket prices for the show. The price per ticket will be ₹70 on weekdays and ₹80 on weekends. The fee for children will be ₹30 per ticket on all days.

Swimming coach held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Thalaghattapura police on Monday arrested 25-year-old woman swimming coach Mamatha along with her male friend for stealing gold valuables worth ₹3 lakh from the locker of a student.

The student, along with her mother, had gone to swim at the pool in Kembathalli on Kanakapura Road. After returning from the pool, she noticed that the valuables, including a gold chain and a pair of bangles, were missing. Questioning led Mamatha to confess to the crime, police said.

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela (Distt.: Saran), Bihar-841221

E-Tender No.: RWP-OT-M&P-TSRP-23-Retender. "Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer-CTG./Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of President of India invites online "e-open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for following works.

1. Name of work with its location and completion period : Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Training of 02 MT Thermal Sand Reclamation Plant for used P.F Resin coated and burnt sand generation during the casting process of wheel as per specification of Mould Shop at RWP/Bela. Completion period:- 12 months., **2. Approx. cost of the work :** ₹ 7,37,45,280/-, **3. Bid Security :** ₹ 5,18,700/-, **4. Cost of tender document :** Nil, **5. Tender closing date and time :** 05.08.2024, 14:30 hrs., **6.** Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. : E-Tender No. RWP-OT-M&P-TSRP-23-Retender, For full details and submission of bid kindly visit portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/ bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS portal (**www.ireps.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspapers.

Dy.Chief Mech. Engr.-CTG, RWP, Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt./2024-25/39

Why is India drilling a 6-km deep hole in Maharashtra?

The Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) in Karad, Maharashtra, is a specialised institute mandated to execute India's scientific deep-drilling programme. Under BGRL, the aim is to drill the earth's crust and conduct scientific observations to help expand our understanding of reservoir-triggered earthquakes in the Koyna-Warna region

DEEP DIVE: At the deep drilling site in Koyna region, Maharashtra, the towering drilling rig is seen surrounded by associated equipment, an onsite mud logging unit, gas analysis lab, and a geological studies lab. MOES-BGRL

Bhavya Khanna
Sukanta Roy
M. Ravichandran

Scientists don't yet have a way to predict when and where an earthquake will occur. We know powerful earthquakes at the boundaries of tectonic plates, which measure more than 7.5 on the Richter scale, are almost certainly associated with a severe loss of infrastructure and life. In the ocean, these geological events trigger tsunamis. However, more minor earthquakes that occur in a plate's interior are more challenging to predict because they occur at the least expected sites and could strike densely populated habitats. This is why scientific deep drilling is an indispensable tool for progress in the earth sciences.

What is scientific deep drilling?

Scientific deep-drilling is the enterprise of strategically digging boreholes to analyse deeper parts of the earth's crust. It offers opportunities and access to study earthquakes and expands our understanding of the planet's history, rock types, energy resources, life forms, climate change patterns, and more.

The Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) in Karad, Maharashtra, is a specialised institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences mandated to execute India's sole scientific deep-drilling programme. Under BGRL, the aim is to drill the earth's crust to a depth of 6 km and conduct studies to help expand the understanding of reservoir-triggered earthquakes in the Koyna-Warna region of Maharashtra.

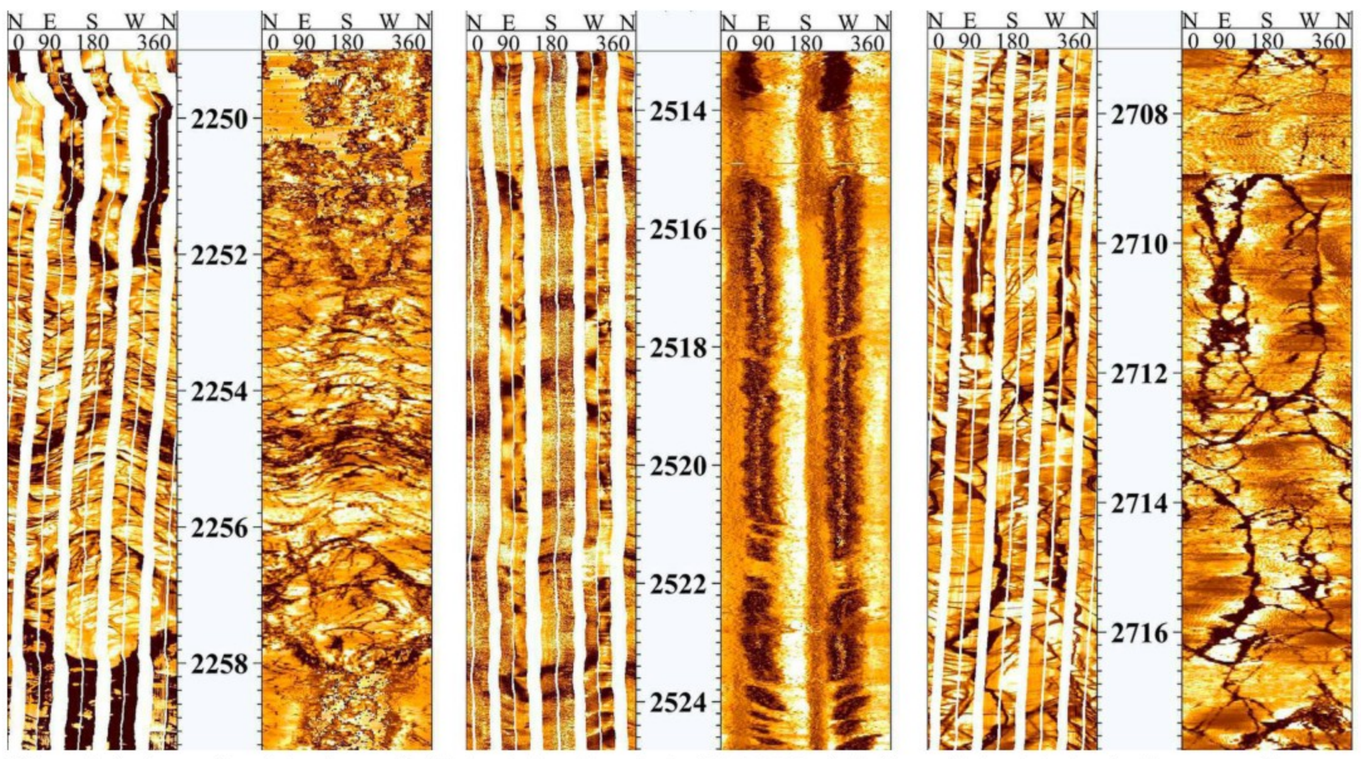
This region has been experiencing frequent earthquakes since the Shivaji Sagar Lake, or the Koyna Dam, was impounded in 1962. BGRL's 3-km-deep pilot borehole in Koyna is complete; the Ministry of Earth Sciences is committed to reaching a depth of 6 km.

Benefits of a deep-drilling mission

Earthquakes are challenging to study. Surface-level observations can't make complete sense of them. The recurrent earthquakes in Koyna are synchronous with the dam's loading and unloading during the monsoon and post-monsoon periods, offering an opportunity to widen our understanding of earthquakes.

However, making observations inside the earth is a different ball game. Scientifically drilled boreholes can be a hub of direct, unique *in situ* experiments and observations and monitor a region's fault lines and seismic behaviour. They also provide exact and fundamental knowledge of the composition of the earth's crust, structure, and processes, and help validate models based on surface studies. Thus, it can inform a range of societal problems related to geohazards and geo-resources.

Investing in scientific deep-drilling can also help expand scientific know-how and technological innovation, especially in seismology (the study of earthquakes). It can also spur the development of tools and equipment for drilling, observation, data analysis, sensors, etc.



High-resolution images (electrical and acoustic) of the borehole wall at a depth of 2,248-2,718 m in the Koyna pilot borehole showing the presence of fault-fracture zones and rock deformation features in detail. MOES-BGRL

Challenges of scientific deep drilling

Scientific deep drilling is the best tool to study the earth's interior. Other ways include geophysical measurements of seismic wave speed, gravitational and magnetic fields, and electrical conductivity from the near surface. Scientists can also examine crust fragments brought from deep underground to the surface.

But scientific deep-drilling remains the most reliable method because it helps get direct (*in situ*) and near-source measurements. Researchers can also capture rock and sediment cores aligned with the earth's timeline from within the borehole. It is also labour- and capital-intensive. The earth's interior is a hot, dark, high-pressure region that hinders long and continuous operations.

Even with these challenges, however, scientific pursuits are important. Expanding earth-science research, especially of solid earth, is crucial. Aside from earthquakes, this is because many surface phenomena – the composition of water and air, their availability, and the resulting interactions with climate-affected phenomena – are linked to what happens inside the earth's crust.

What is the drilling technique?

The Koyna pilot borehole is about 0.45 m wide (at the surface) and roughly 3 km deep. It employs a unique drilling strategy – a hybrid of mud rotary drilling and air hammering.

In rotary drilling, a rotating drilling rod made of steel is attached to a diamond-embedded drill bit at the bottom. As it penetrates the crust, it generates considerable heat due to friction, so drilling mud is flushed through the rod into the borehole to cool the drill bit. In addition to being a coolant and a lubricant, the drilling mud helps bring rock cuttings up from the borehole.

A ring-shaped space separates the drilling rod and borehole wall. The debris moves out from the space due to the pressure of the drilling mud pumped from the top through the drilling rod. The deeper the borehole, the more pressure is required to bring up the debris from this space.

Air hammering pushes highly compressed air through the drilling rod to deepen the borehole and flush the cuttings out.

Deep-drilling operations at Koyna use a rig capable of both techniques. The decision to use each technique at a particular point is based on the rock type, presence of highly fractured rock, water inflow zones, and the need to collect core samples, among others.

Decisions of this kind are dynamic. Operators used the mud rotary technique to acquire cores because it allowed us to capture long, intact cylindrical sections. Where operators used air-hammering, the team collected rock chips for studies of rock properties.

The operators also have to circulate the drilling mud while making downhole measurements of physical and chemical properties of the borehole environment using temperature, density, electrical conductivity, sonic velocity, rock porosity, and radioactivity probes – while installing steel pipes to secure the borehole's sides.

When the borehole depth increases beyond 3 km and strikes for 6 km, the entire rig will have to be updated with exponentially enhanced capacity. In addition, increasing the depth to 6 km heightens the complexities of drilling through fractured rocks in the Koyna seismic zone and the possibility of drill rods and sensors getting stuck.

Troubleshooting also becomes more complicated because of limited access to equipment deeper down the hole. Rocks at these depths are softer so drilling mud is lost. Further, a 4-in-wide and 9-metre-long granite core can weigh up to 200 kg, and lifting it up by more than 3 km is technically exacting. Operators will also encounter fault lines and fracture zones more often, through which water could enter the borehole and stall drilling.

If any of the above situations arise and troubleshooting fails, we may have to abandon the borehole. Another challenge is to steer the borehole at the desired inclination from the top, using vertically controlled actions. This requires drill motors, imaging tools, and monitoring devices that can be 'tuned' every minute. The planning and execution of deep-drilling are thus dynamic and must be foolproof. Human resources are also a challenge. The process needs highly skilled technical personnel for continuous on-site engagement for 6-8 months at a time in harsh weather; this was the case for the 3 km pilot borehole. For a 6 km borehole, continuous drilling will last at least 12-14 months.

What have scientists found?

The pilot drilling mission was a success and has yielded significant new information about the subsurface geological environment. For one, it revealed 1.2-km thick, 65 million-year-old Deccan trap lava flows, and below them 2,500-2,700-million-year-old granitic basement rocks. Downhole measurements of core samples and conditions from a depth of 3 km have also provided new information about the physical and mechanical properties of rocks, the chemical and isotopic composition of formation fluids and gases, temperature and stress regimes, and fracture orientations.

We also captured high-resolution images of the borehole wall using acoustic and micro-resistivity techniques. They can be used to validate data extracted from other cores worldwide. The team at Koyna also conducted hydraulic fracturing experiments to directly measure the rocks' stress regimes. We expect data from these experiments to be useful for many years, especially to understand the reasons for recurrent earthquakes in specific geographies. By integrating various datasets and using advanced analysis, the team could also detect buried fault zones and study their properties. One significant finding was the presence of water down to 3 km! It was found to be meteoric or rain-fed, implying deep percolation and circulation are possible. Another key finding was that the Koyna region is critically stressed: even small stress perturbations could cause the rock to fail and potentially trigger frequent, small-magnitude earthquakes in the region.

> Earthquakes that occur in a plate's interior are challenging to predict because they occur at the least expected sites and could strike densely populated habitats

What next?

The pilot data will inform future drilling. Modelling experiments suggest the temperature at 6 km could be 110-130 degrees C. Drilling equipment, downhole data acquisition systems, and sensors for long-term placement at depth need to be designed accordingly. The Koyna data and samples will also facilitate new experiments. More than 20 research groups nationwide are already studying the Koyna samples. One is examining the gouge from fault zones to understand the frictional properties of rocks in quake-prone regions. Another is characterising microbes on these rocks to understand life forms that thrive in hot, dark, nutrient-poor environments. Their findings could potentially yield new molecules and clues to improve industrial processes.

Members of the international geological research community have also sought access to core samples for projects in emerging fields such as carbon capture and storage in the deep Deccan traps. In sum, the Koyna exercise is establishing a firm footing in scientific deep-drilling for India. Its lessons will inform future deep-drilling experiments and expand academic knowledge in multiple ways.

(Bhavya Khanna is a Scientist D, communication in science, at the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES); Sukanta Roy is a Scientist G and Head of Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory, Karad, under MoES; and M. Ravichandran is the Secretary to the Government of India, MoES.)

Read the article in full online
Visit bit.ly/deepdrillingprogramme

Six locations being considered for second airport: M.B. Patil

Minister says it will be ready by 2035, in keeping with the exclusivity clause availed by BIAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government will need to acquire 3,000 to 5,000 acres of land for setting up a new international airport as big as Kempegowda International Airport in north Bengaluru with a capacity to handle 100 million passengers per annum, according to Large and Medium Industries, and Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil.

KIA's capacity

Responding to media queries at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday, he said the new airport would be ready by 2035, in keeping with the exclusivity clause availed by Bangalore International Airport Limited – that no international airport should be allowed within a 150 km radius until 2035. KIA's passenger handling capacity is expected to be saturated by 2035, while its cargo handling capacity is expected to reach saturation point by 2040.

> Things will move in a few months. A plan will be ready in the next three months.
>
> **M.B. PATIL,**
> Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister

Second for city

The government is considering six locations, in the vicinity of Kanakapura Road, Mysuru Road, Magadi, Doddaballapur, Dobbspet, and Tumakuru, in the range of 60 km away from the existing airport at Devanahalli.

A special committee, comprising aviation industry experts, would soon meet to consider suitable sites, keeping in mind good road, rail and metro connectivity, fewer people settlements, minimum water bodies, not much green cover, and non-agriculture land without elevation or mountains. "Things will move in a few months. A plan will be ready in the next three months," the Minister said.

When asked about Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announcing plans to set up an airport in Hosur, which adjoins Bengaluru, the Minister said, "I don't know if it was just a natural thought for them to have another airport. However, Tamil Nadu's statement came after Karnataka spoke about a second international international airport for Bengaluru and their decision would not affect Karnataka".

He further said he would soon meet Union Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and discuss the State's industrial development plans.

Track Hoysala vehicle in real time

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

People who complain to the police helpline 112 will be able to track the Hoysala vehicle in real time on their phones.

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda said the initiative aims to leverage technology to make policing more people-friendly and transparent. "The Command Centre will send an SMS with a link to those who call the helpline and when a Hoysala vehicle is dispatched to help them. The caller can track the vehicle through the link and also interact with the team for any clarification," he said.

When someone needs assistance from a Hoysala team, the Command Centre looks for the nearest vehicle and assigns it to the caller, sharing their details. Presently, the two can communicate only through calls. With the new feature, the caller can track the vehicle. The average response time of a Hoysala vehicle is just over eight minutes.

This new feature is part of an evolving process to make seeking police assistance easier and timely, Mr. Dayananda said. Apart from several cameras being installed under the Safe City Project, the city police's innovation of a safety island, now christened "Apatbandhava", under the Safe Connect Project, helps those in distress to have audio-visual communication with the Command Centre from these safety islands, 50 of them installed across the city.

Now, this feature is available through a mobile application called the Safe Connect on Karnataka State Police app, through which callers can audio-visually connect to the Command Centre.

INBRIEF

Workshop on alternative dispute resolution

Legal Services Clinics of Soundarya College of Law, Bengaluru, in association with Vakeelara Vaahini, organised a workshop on Alternative Dispute Resolution System on July 5 and 6 on its premises.

H.R. Radha, Director, Mediation Centre, Bengaluru, who was the chief guest at the inaugural event, in her address spoke about the significance of mediation mechanisms. She said the ARDS mechanism stands as a beacon of hope for the expeditious delivery of justice. Justice Krishna S Dixit, who was the chief guest at the valedictory programme on July 6, said a judge should not only visit marketplaces and other public spaces frequently to grasp the pulse of the people but should also visit law campuses to stay connected with the academic environment. He also stressed on the importance of ARDS and discussed the issues arising from delayed justice due to both the parties and the courts.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated July 11, we have a story on a talk by Dr. Pradeep Chakravarthy titled 'A History of South India through Selected Antiques'. He spoke about the history, mythology, and philosophy that have shaped the objects.

Businessman arrested for selling substandard chocolates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Economic Offences Wing of the Central Crime Branch on Monday arrested a 45-year-old businessman who was sourcing sub-standard chocolates, biscuits, and soft drinks from foreign countries and selling them to malls and supermarkets across the city.

He used "self-created fake" stickers of the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India. Based on a tip-off, a team of officials raided the godown in Sudhama Nagar and arrested Narendra Singh, 45, from Rajasthan. The police also recovered chocolates and snacks of foreign brands estimated to be worth around ₹1 crore. Investigations revealed that the accused had been operating the racket for the past five years and using fake FSSAI stickers to label the goods with a higher MRP. The accused would source the shipment from different foreign countries to Mumbai port and get it to Bengaluru by road clandestinely, said the City Police Commissioner.

4,000 women adopted new contraceptive methods in State since last September

WORLD POPULATION DAY

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Over 4,000 women in Karnataka have chosen to use newer contraceptive methods for healthy birth spacing since September last year.

To prevent maternal and infant morbidities and mortalities by ensuring healthy birth spacing, the National Family Planning programme introduced two new contraceptive options, subdermal single rod implants and subcutaneous injectables, last year. Four districts from Karnataka – Bengaluru, Bidar, Mysuru, and Yadgir – are among the 40 districts in 10 States where the new options were introduced in the first phase.

The Health Department is all set to extend the new contraceptive options in six more districts in Karnataka on the occasion of World Population Day that is observed on July 11.

The Health Department is all set to extend the new contraceptive options in six more districts in Karnataka.
GETTY IMAGE

The State Health Department introduced subdermal single rod implants in K.C. General, Vani Vilas Hospitals in Bengaluru, and Government MCH Hospital and Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences in Bidar. The subcutaneous injectables were introduced in Mysuru and Yadgir in a vertical line from the Medical College level to the sub-centre level. This included district and taluk hospitals, community and primary health centres and sub-centres in both these districts.

At 1.7, Karnataka's Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which is the average number of children a woman would have in the course of her life, is below replacement (the rate at which the population replaces itself), according to NFHS-5.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said since the rollout of the new methods as many as 1,950 women have adopted single rod implants in the four hospitals in Bengaluru and Bidar. "Subdermal single rod implants are long-acting reversible contraceptives that are safe. They can be used by all women who want to postpone the pregnancy for three years or less," the Commissioner said. The subcutaneous injectables are also long acting reversible contraceptives. To be taken once in three months, these are self injectable. As many as 1,547 women are using it in Mysuru district and 603 in Yadgir district, he said.

Healthy birth spacing

Chandrika B.R., State Deputy Director (Family Welfare), said healthy birth spacing remains a priority for Karnataka as 56.2% of births in the State are poorly spaced. "This has affected maternal and infant morbidity. Overall, 47.7% of births in India are poorly spaced," she said.

The doctor said the extent of acceptance for the new methods has been good so far. "Although there is a little hesitancy among some women as the contraceptive methods are new, we have been trying to convince them as we do not want to send them back without post-partum contraception," the official added.

'Undertrial accused of murder not entitled to procure bedding, clothing'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday told the High Court of Karnataka that actor Darshan is not entitled to privately source his bedding, clothing, and cutlery as the prison norms allow only the undertrial prisoners other than those for murder to have these materials of their own.

Regarding his plea to source food from home, the government advocate told the court that Darshan will have to submit a request to the Inspector General of Prison.

Submissions were made before Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar during the hearing of the petition filed by Mr. Darhan, who has sought a direction to the authorities to permit him to have access to privately sourced/home food, cutlery, clothing, bedding, and books to be supplied by his family members.

Additional Advocate General Bhanuprakash V.G. pointed out that clause 728 of the Prisons and Correctional Services Manual 2021 specifically states that "undertrial prisoners other than those for murder, shall be permitted to retain their own clothing, bedding, footwear and eating and drinking vessels like plates, spoons, cups and religious emblems."

Meanwhile, Special Public Prosecutor P. Prasanna Kumar told the court that Section 30 of the Karnataka Prisons Act, 1963, empowers the Inspector-General of Prisons to examine requests of undertrial prisoners to receive food from home and hence Darshan should submit the request to the IG (Prisons).

However, Senior Advocate K.N. Phanindra, appearing for Mr. Darhan, contended that Section 30 of the Act allows a civil prisoner or an unconvicted criminal prisoner to receive from private sources food, clothing, bedding or writing materials, books, newspapers or other necessaries, subject to examination. While asking the advocates of both sides to clarify whether the petition is maintainable before the High Court directly, as the petitioner has not filed any such plea before the trial court, Justice Kumar adjourned further hearing till July 18.

Man posing as Chief Minister's PA cheats Bagalkot DHO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch officials are looking for a man who posed as the personal assistant of the Chief Minister and cheated the District Health Officer, Bagalkote, and made away with ₹7 lakh.

Based on a complaint filed by the victim, Jayashree M., on Monday, the police registered a case of cheating and impersonation. The victim, in her complaint, said she was on leave when Rajkumar Yaragal came with an official transfer order to join as a newly transferred DHO on August 11, 2023. After Jayshree returned from leave, she refused to hand over the charge.

She approached the Karnataka Administrative Tribunal and got an order to continue working in the same post until further orders. A few days later, Jayashree came to Vidhana Soudha to meet seniors in the department on an official call.

During this period, she received a call from an unknown number, and the caller claimed to be Ramaiah, a retired KAS officer and presently working as PA to the Chief Minister. Ramaiah assured her relief from the legal tangle in exchange for money and took ₹50,000.

Later on, he was in touch with her constantly and has reportedly taken a total of ₹7 lakh in the past one year.

People told to be alert against 'registered post' fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police have launched an awareness campaign, alerting people to a new modus operandi employed by cyber fraudsters, where people get registered posts promising cash rewards and gift vouchers with QR codes to trap the victim.

"Since now people are suspicious of random calls and messages with links, miscreants have improvised their tactics and are sending registered posts with fake pamphlets of reputed companies, scratch cards, and QR codes that can be scanned to claim prizes. When receivers scan the code, the fraudsters get access to their bank accounts," explained Kushal Chouksey, SP, Chickballapur district.

"We urge people to have multiple verification systems on their mobile phones and also not to engage in any transaction with unknown people or share personal information with them," a senior cybercrime police official said.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUL. 11		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:50
RISE	10:20	SET 22:47
FRIDAY, JUL. 12		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:50
RISE	11:05	SET 23:21
SATURDAY, JUL. 13		
RISE	06:01	SET 18:50
RISE	11:50	SET 23:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	30	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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GOPALAN CINEMAS | ARCADE | LEGACY | GRAND | SIGNATURE | INNOVATION
INOX MARATHHALLI | KIN CINEMAS SEEGEHALLI | CINEPHILE HSR LAYOUT | ROCKLINE JALAHALLI | MIRAJ SUNKADAKATTE | GULBARGA | RAICHUR
VC UTHARAHALLI | DRC MYSORE | VISION CINEMAS MYSORE | GRAND CINEMAS HOSUR | SAPNA BIDAR
Cine GALAXY SURATKAL | MOVIETIME DAVANGERE | BALLARY | KAPEEL BELGAUM | MAGNUM CINEMAS NIPPANI | Bharath Cinemas MANGALORE | MANIPAL | KUNDAPUR | PADUBIDRE | PUTTUR | SUMMOGA | UDUPI
URVASHI (TAMIL) | MUKUNDA MARUTI SEVANAGAR (TAMIL) | Vampire THEATRE (TAMIL) | ANUPAMA - DTS (10-30, 1-30, 4-30, 7-30) (TELUGU) | NARTAKI 4K (HINDI) 7.1 | SANDHYA MADIWALA (TAMIL & TELUGU) | MANASA KONANAKUNTE (TAMIL & TELUGU) | BRUNDHA HONGASANDRA (TAMIL)
VEERESH CINEMAS (TELUGU) | Swagath SHANKARNAG M.G ROAD (TAMIL & HINDI) | Swagath POORNIMA J.C.ROAD (TAMIL) | AARUH THEATRE (TAMIL) | RENUKA PRASANNA (TAMIL & TELUGU) | PUSHPANJALI BN PURA (TAMIL) | VIJAYALAKSHMI GARUDACHARPALYA (TAMIL & TELUGU) | SHREE LAKSHMI (TAMIL)
SRI SRINIVASA KADUGODI (TAMIL & TELUGU) | RAVI (TAMIL & TELUGU) | VCINEMAS RAMMURTHYNAGAR (TELUGU) | VICTORY CINEMA (TAMIL) | SRI VINAYAKA MARATHAHALLI (TELUGU) | SRI RADHA KRISHNA RT NAGAR (TAMIL & TELUGU) | VENKATESHWARA KRISHNARAJAPURA (TELUGU) | AND ALSO AT OTHER CINEMAS

TAMIL VERSION : AGARA TIRUMALA | MAGADI ROAD ANJAN | SRI RAMPURA ARUNA | SANJAYNAGAR VAIBHAV | KATTRIGUPPE KAMAKYA | KONAPPANA AGRAHARA VENKATESHWARA | CHIKKALASANDRA BALAJI | BOMMANAHALLI KRISHNA | RAJGOPALNAGAR MARUTI | AVALAHALLI VENKATESHWARA | SINGAPURA VAINIDHI | VANNARPET BALAJI | SULTANPALYA PUSHPANJALI | SUNKADAKATTE MOHAN | GOLLARAHATTI VENKATESHWARA | VARTHUR VINAYAKA | NAGAWARA PRUTHVI | PEENYA BHARATHI | KAMALANGAR VEERABHADRESHWARA | YELAHANKA PRAKASH | TAVAREKERE LAKSHMI | KODIGEHALLI RAJ MURALI | KENGERI VENKATESHWARA | GOTTIGERE LAKSHMI | GOWDANPALYA SRINIVASA | DOMMASANDRA BALAJI | KADIRENAHALLI MAHADESHWARA | J.P.NAGAR SIDDHALINGESHWARA | LAGGERE AAKASH | EJIPURA RAVI | RAJAJINAGAR NAVARANG | YESHWANTHPUR ULLAS | HARINAGAR VINAYAKA | MATHIKERE MURALI GOKULA | KANAKAPUR ARKAVATHI | TUMKUR MARUTI | CHANNAPATNA SHIVANANDA | MAGADI BALAJI | RAMNAGAR SHAAN | TURUVEKERE POORNIMA | KGF OLYMPIA | MYSORE SANGAM | MYSORE GAYATRI | MYSORE TIBBADEVI | MANDYA GURUSHREE | HASSAN SAHYADRI | K.R.NAGAR VENKATESHWAR | GUNDLUPET VENKATESHWARA | ARSIKERE SADHANA | BILIKERE LAKSHMI | NANJANGUD SHARADA | MADDUR MAHAVEERA | CHAMARAJNAGAR BASAVESHWARA | K.M.DODDI SUMA | BELLUR CROSS MARUTI | KOLLEGELA KRISHNA | PIRIYAPATNA SHARADA | BANNUR SOMESHWARA | MALAVALLI MAHALAKSHMI | RAMAPURA VEERABHADRESHWARA | CHANNARAYAPATNA DHANALAKSHMI | PANDAVAPURA LAKSHMI | HULLAHALLI YAJAMANA | K.R.PET KJB | KUSHALNAGAR COORG | SIDDHAPURA WOODLAND | HUNSUR LEELA | SHANIVARSANTHE YASHASWINI | SHUNTIKOPPA GANESH | SHIMOGA MALLIKARJUNA | BHADRAVATHI SHANKAR | KADUR VIJAYALAKSHMI | MANGALORE RAMAKANTHI | CHIKMAGALUR NAGALAKSHMI | UDUPI ALANKAR | PLANET KARKALA | BELTHANGADI BHARATH | DAVANGERE TRISHUL | HIRIYUR SRISHAILA
TELUGU VERSION : AGARA TIRUMALA | KATTRIGUPPE KAMAKYA | KONAPPANA AGRAHARA VENKATESHWARA | CHIKKALASANDRA BALAJI | VARTHUR VINAYAKA | KODIGEHALLI RAJ MURALI | S.G.PALYA SRINIVASA | VIDYAPEETA CRCLE CHANDRODAYA | HARINAGAR VINAYAKA | MATHIKERE MURALI GOKULA | KOLAR BHAVANI | DODDABALLAPUR VAIBHAV | ANEKAL SLN | PAVAGADA SRINIVASA PRASANNA | CHIKBALLAPUR KRISHNA | GAURIBIDANUR SHANKAR | SHIRA BHAGYALAKSHMI | TUMKUR MARUTI | TIPTUR GANESH | ATTIBELE GAURISHANKAR | HESARUGHATTA SLN | MADHUGIRI SHANTALA | MALUR BENAKA | KUNIGAL PADMA | KORATAGERE SHIVAGANGA | MULABAGILU NATARAJ | VIJAYAPURA SANGAMESHWARA | BANGARUPET BALACHANDRA| CHINTAMANI ADARSHA | MYSORE PADMA | HASSAN SHREE GURU | SHIKARIPURA MAHANTESH | BYNDOOR SHANKAR | DHARWAD SANGAM | BIJAPUR SRI LAKSHMI | BELGAUM CHITRA | RANIBENNUR SHANKAR | GADAG SHANTHI | BAGALKOT VASAVI | ILKAL NARAYANA | SINDHAGI VINAYAKA | LAKSHMESHWARA RAVI | TALIKOTE AMEER | ATHANI MURUGENDRA | BADAMI MAHAKOOTESHWARA | DAVANGERE TRISHUL | CHALLAKERE BALAJI | CHITRADURGA BASAVESHWARA | JAGALUR NATARAJ | HOSADURGA JYOTHI | PARASHURAMPURA SAGAR | SHAHPURA JAYASHREE | GULBARGA SANGAM
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Ease in retail inflation for industrial workers in May

3.86 in per cent. Retail inflation for industrial workers eased compared to 4.42% in the same month a year ago. The Consumer Price Index-Industrial Workers was 3.87% in April 2024, according to the Labour Ministry. PTI

Amount paid as dividend to govt. by PSU banks

6,481 in ₹ crore. Four public sector banks, including Canara Bank and Indian Bank, presented dividend cheques to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for financial year 2023-24. PTI

Students get free admission to higher education in Assam

95 In thousand. As part of the 'Pragyan Bharati Scheme', Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma distributed ₹68.44 crore among 349 colleges and varsities to give free admission to poor students from underprivileged sections. PTI

The worth of Stinger missile contract signed by NATO

700 in $ million. NATO signed the contract to have member countries produce more Stinger missiles, one of many steps the alliance is pressing at the summit to get each country to boost its weapons production capabilities. AP

Pakistan extends stay of Afghan refugees after UN visit

1.45 in million. Pakistan announced it is extending the stay of Afghan refugees who legally reside in the country, a day after a visit by the UN refugee agency. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The case for a caste Census

The Census Act, 1948 should be amended to make enumeration by caste mandatory, instead of leaving it to the whims of the Union executive. Such data can be collected as part of the regular Census, with a few pertinent queries added to the questionnaire

FULL CONTEXT

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

Peter Drucker famously said, "Only what gets measured gets managed." The problems of social groups that have been historically discriminated against (be it by caste, race, religion, gender, disability etc.) cannot be resolved without collecting data group-identity wise. Doing so is not a capitulation to identity politics but a vital step towards informed policy making and inclusive development.

For instance, Germany's census does not enumerate people by race. This has worked to the disadvantage of its Black people who started a private, country-wide, online survey called Afrozensus in 2020. Its results showed that anti-Black racism is widespread and institutionally entrenched in Germany.

Applying Cicero's test of *cui bono* (who benefits?), it can be said that the demand for enumeration generally emanates from the victims of discrimination and is resisted by vested interests.

Number game: Supporters celebrate the release of Bihar's caste Census report, in Patna, in 2023. PTI

Why a caste Census?

A caste Census is crucial for four reasons – one, it is a social imperative. Caste continues to be a foundational social construct in India. Only about 5% of Indian marriages were inter-caste as of 2011-12. The use of caste surnames and caste marks is still widespread. Residential segregation by caste persists. Choices of candidates for elections and ministers for Cabinets continue to be dictated by caste considerations.

Two, it is a legal imperative. Constitutionally-mandated policies of social justice which include reservations in electoral constituencies, education and public employment cannot be pursued effectively without detailed caste-wise data. Even though the Constitution uses the word class instead of caste, various rulings of the Supreme Court have held caste as a 'relevant criterion', 'sole criterion' or 'dominant criterion' for defining a backward class, and have demanded detailed caste-wise data for upholding reservation policies.

Three, it is an administrative imperative. Detailed caste-wise data is necessary to avoid/correct wrongful inclusions of undeserving castes and exclusions of deserving castes, and to guard against a few dominant castes in a reserved category crowding out others. It is also needed for sub-categorising castes within a reserved category and to determine the income/wealth criterion for the creamy layer.

Four, it is a moral imperative. The absence of detailed caste-wise data has helped a coterie of elites, among upper castes and dominant Other Backward Classes (OBCs), to corner a disproportionate share of the nation's assets, incomes, and positions of power.

Censuses in British India between 1881 and 1931 enumerated all castes. In the first Census conducted after Independence in 1951, the Government of India (GOI) ordered that caste should not be enumerated. However, an exception was made for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) which have been enumerated in every Census since 1951. In 1961, the GOI advised States to conduct their own surveys and draw up State-specific OBC lists if they so desired. There was no reservation for OBCs in the Centre and its undertakings then.

The arguments against caste Census

There are multiple views against the caste Census. These include:-

First, that it is socially divisive. India's social divisions predate Census efforts by nearly 3,000 years. The Census counts of the SCs and STs since 1951 have not led to any conflicts among these castes or tribes. Further, India's Census enumerates religion, language, and region which are as divisive as caste, if not more. Casteism will not wither away by not counting caste in the Census, any more than communalism, and regionalism will disappear by not enumerating religion, language and region.

Second, that it is an administrative nightmare. Unlike race which is a fuzzy concept, but is still enumerated in many countries such as the U.S., there is little or no ambiguity about anyone's caste. The GOI has been able to smoothly enumerate 1,234 castes in the SC category and 698 tribes in the ST category. Therefore, it is difficult to understand why the enumeration of the 4,000-odd other castes, most of which are State-specific, should pose an intractable problem.

Third, that it would fuel demands for increased reservations. On the contrary, the availability of caste-wise Census data would help curb arbitrary demands from caste groups and capricious decision-making by governments. Policy makers would be able to objectively debate and address the claims of, say, the Marathas, Patidars, Jats, or any other groups for reservations. But governments prefer fuzzy data because it gives them the latitude to implement reservations arbitrarily for electoral considerations.

The case for OBC inclusion in Census

Like the SCs and STs, the Constitution permits reservation for the OBCs in education (Article 15(4)) and public employment (Article 16(4)). After the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations, the OBCs enjoy reservations in the Central government and its undertakings as well. In the *Indra Sawhney* case (1992), the Supreme Court ruled that the OBC list, based on the 1931 Census, should be revised periodically.

The OBCs do not have reservation in electoral constituencies for MPs and MLAs like the SCs and the STs. But after the 73rd and 74th amendments (1993), the Constitution provides for reservations in electoral constituencies in panchayats and municipalities not only for SCs and STs but also for OBCs (Articles 243D(6) and 243T(6)). For this, caste-wise, area-wise Census data of the OBCs is essential. Therefore, the GOI should have enumerated the OBCs at least in the 2001 Census. But it did not.

Whenever States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Odisha and Jharkhand tried to implement reservations for the OBCs in elections to local bodies, the High Courts and the Supreme Court stayed the same, on the ground that there was no caste-wise data of OBCs. While one arm of the State – the judiciary –demands caste-wise data to uphold reservations, another – the executive – has avoided enumerating the very same data.

However, the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) among those other than the OBCs, SCs and STs (effectively, the upper castes) was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2022 despite the absence of any supporting empirical data. In view of the EWS reservation, the Census should now enumerate all castes including the upper castes as it did till 1931.

While Census is a Union subject, the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 empowers States and even local bodies to gather the necessary statistics. So, individual States can always do Caste surveys like Karnataka (2015) and Bihar (2023) did. But Census data carries more authority and is less contested. The government's reluctance to enumerate caste as part of the Census is legally indefensible and administratively unwise.

How an attempt at caste Census failed

After considerable lobbying by OBC leaders, in 2010, the Parliament passed a unanimous resolution (with both Congress and BJP on board) calling for caste to be enumerated as part of the 2011 Census. As per the 1931 Census when caste was last enumerated, there were 4,147 castes in India apart from the depressed classes/untouchables (as they were called then). Unfortunately, the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC)-2011 was poorly designed and executed, throwing up a ludicrous figure of 46 lakh castes and the results were never released.

The SECC-2011's failure was because of the fact that it was not conducted under the Census Act, 1948 as the Act was not amended to include caste as a parameter. It was conducted through the Union Ministries of Rural Development and Urban Development which did not have prior experience of conducting sociological/anthropological surveys. Additionally, the questionnaire was poorly designed and asked open-ended questions about caste. The enumerators couldn't distinguish between genuine castes, alternative caste names, larger caste groups, sub-castes, surnames, clan names, gotras, etc. In contrast, the Bihar government's Caste Survey in 2023, provided enumerators the list of 214 caste names specific to Bihar, with the 215th category labelled "Other Castes" and came up with better results.

Despite the unanimous Parliamentary resolution of 2010, the Central government announced in 2021 that it would not enumerate caste as part of the next Census. It reiterated this stand before the Supreme Court in a case filed by the Maharashtra government seeking a direction to the Centre to enumerate OBCs in the 2021 Census. The Supreme Court judgment dismissing the Maharashtra government's plea in December 2021 is questionable, considering its own past rulings.

What is the way forward?

Learning from the SECC-2011 failures, the Census Act, 1948 should be amended to make enumeration by caste mandatory instead of leaving it to the whims of the Union executive. Caste should be enumerated as part of the regular Census by the Census Commissioner only, with a few pertinent questions added to the questionnaire. Additionally, the government should enlist sociological/anthropological experts to draw up a draft list of castes specific to each State, publish the draft list online, inviting suggestions and comments from the public before finalising it, and give only that list to the enumerators. The questionnaire should be so designed as to ask the names of the sub-caste, caste, larger caste group, and the caste surname of the respondent. Internet-enabled hand-held devices preloaded with these details and limiting the enumerator's role to one of choosing the correct option will make the task easy and foolproof.

Interested States must move the apex Court to review its 2021 judgment. It is farcical to implement OBC reservation based on 1931 Census data and EWS reservation with no empirical data. The next Census must enumerate caste.

The writer is former IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre and former Vice Chancellor, Indian Maritime University, Chennai.

THE GIST

- The problems of social groups that have been historically discriminated against (be it by caste, race, religion, gender, disability etc.) cannot be resolved without collecting data group-identity wise.
- The availability of caste-wise Census data would help curb arbitrary demands from caste groups and capricious decision-making by governments. Policy makers would be able to objectively debate and address the claims of, say, the Marathas, Patidars, Jats, or any other groups for reservations.
- The government should enlist sociological/anthropological experts to draw up a draft list of castes (together with alternative caste names and the names of sub-castes and larger caste groups) specific to each State, publish the draft list online, inviting suggestions and comments from the public before finalising it, and give only that list to the enumerators.

From Page One

ED searches premises of Nagendra, Daddal

The residence of Raichur Rural MLA Basanagouda Daddal, who is chairman of the Valmiki development corporation, that was raided on Wednesday. SANTOSH SAGAR

The ED had taken security cover from the Central Reserve Police Force for the raids and not from the Karnataka police. The ED officials knocked on the doors of those raided at 3.30 a.m., the sources said.

The ED is searching three residences of Mr. Nagendra – two in Bengaluru and one in Ballari city, three premises linked to Mr. Daddal – his residences in Raichur and at Yelahanka, Bengaluru, his room in the Legislators' Home in Bengaluru, the corporation's head office at Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru, apart from residences of the other accused. Mr. Daddal's former PA Pampanna was also raided later in the day. Mr. Nagendra and Mr. Daddal were present at their residences during the raids, and were being questioned by ED officials even late into Wednesday night, sources said.

The scam came to light when the corporation's accounts superintendent P. Chandrashekharan ended his life on May 26. In a note, he alleged illegal transfer of money from the corporation to various accounts. The Mumbai-headquartered Union Bank of India, in its complaint to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had alleged embezzlement of funds amounting to ₹88 crore.

ED is the third agency probing the alleged scam apart from a Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the State Government and the CBI.

There is no dearth of funds for welfare schemes: CM

Though we have implemented the five guarantee schemes and people have reaped the benefits, the BJP is trying to spread canards about the State's financial situation, he says

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated and addressed a public rally in Chamarajanagar which was also attended by many of his Cabinet colleagues on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Wednesday that there was no dearth of funds to implement the welfare projects announced in the State Budget and accused the BJP of "peddling lies" on the financial condition of the State.

At a public rally in Chamarajanagar held to thank the people of the region for ensuring the victory of the Congress candidate in the Chamarajanagar Lok Sabha constituency, he said, "Though we have implemented the five guarantee schemes and people have reaped the benefits, the BJP is trying to spread canards about the financial situation."

'Promises fulfilled'

Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "The Congress has implemented the promises made in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly elections, including the five guarantee schemes, and the people have reposed faith in us as we have walked the talk."

If that were not to be the case, the voters in Chamarajanagar would not have ensured the victory of the Congress candidate in the constituency by a margin of over 1.8 lakh votes, he added.

On social harmony

The Chief Minister said the party strived to achieve harmony in society and was committed to ensuring the welfare and empowerment of the Dalits, women, socially backward classes, and the economically weaker sections of society. "Such values are enshrined in the Constitution and were the dream of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and I am also committed to the socio-economic empowerment of the weaker sections," said Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Launching a tirade against the BJP, Mr. Siddaramaiah accused the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of denying the State its due share of tax. "We were forced to approach the Supreme Court after which the Centre released a small portion of the funds," said the Chief Minister. The Centre also failed to release funds even to tackle drought and hence it was imperative for all MPs elected from Karnataka to speak for the cause of the State in Parliament, he added.

He recalled his association with Chamarajanagar and said the relationship stretched to more than 40 years and hence he had deep roots and connection with the district.

State bags investment commitment for ₹6,450 cr.: M.B. Patil

Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The proposed investments from Japanese and South Korean firms can create more than 1,000 jobs, says the Minister

The State government has bagged ₹6,450 crore investment commitments, mostly from six large companies, from Japan and South Korea, said Large and Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil here on Wednesday.

At a press conference, he said a State delegation headed by him had toured Japan and South Korea for a fortnight and secured investment commitments to the tune of ₹6,450 crore which could create more than 1,000 jobs.

Future collaborations

The Minister also said that in addition to this investment commitment, there were also promising leads worth ₹25,000 crore identified for future collaborations from companies from Japan, Korea, and Karnataka. "Beyond immediate commitments, we have identified sizeable leads across automotive, electronics, and energy solutions sectors. These leads signify potential future investments and underscores the State's strategic importance as an investment destination," the Minister claimed.

The delegation met 35 industry leaders and 200 companies and also participated in roadshows in these countries. In Japan, the delegation met with key industry leaders, including those from Renesas Electronics Corporation, Toyota Motor Corporation, Yamaha Motor Company, Sumitomo Heavy Industries, Panasonic Energy, Nidec Corporation, Nissan Motor Corporation, Brother Industries, Shimadzu Corporation, and Hitachi. In South Korea, they held important meetings with Samsung Electronics, LG Energy Solutions, LX Electronics, NIFCO Korea, OCI Holdings, Krafton, HYAC, Hyundai Motors, Hyosung Advanced Materials, and others.

Osaka Gas to expand

Osaka Gas has committed to expanding its gas distribution infrastructure in the State with an investment of ₹5,000 crore over the next five years, informed the Minister.

MUDA site row: BJP mulls over petitioning EC against CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MYSURU

Mounting pressure on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the Opposition BJP is set to stage a protest in his home district of Mysuru on Friday demanding his resignation in connection with alleged irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) and a CBI probe.

Meanwhile, speaking in Mysuru, the Chief Minister has ruled out both, stating that the BJP was blowing up the issue for political reasons and an investigation into the alleged land scam was already on by a team set up by the State government.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra told a press conference in Bengaluru that the BJP was also considering petitioning the Election Commission of India, alleging that Mr. Siddaramaiah's affidavit in the 2013 Assembly elections did not mention anything about his wife possessing 3.16 acres of land, though the gift deed in this regard was executed in 2009-10. MUDA later allotted 14 sites to Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife in lieu of this piece of land on which it developed sites.

"The records show that the Chief Minister's wife, Parvathi, got 3.16 acres of land through a gift deed from her brother in 2009-10. But Mr. Siddaramaiah did not mention this in his affidavit before the EC while contesting the Assembly elections in 2013. We are consulting legal experts to know the possibility of filing a petition in this regard before the EC," he said.

On the larger alleged irregularities in MUDA, he alleged that irregularities to the tune of around ₹4,000 crore had taken place in MUDA in the form of illegal allotment of alternative sites to various beneficiaries. A person was illegally allotted 42 alternative sites on June 15 this year, Mr. Vijayendra alleged.

CBI probe sought

Mr. Vijayendra accused Mr. Siddaramaiah's close aide and Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh of trying to hush up the episode by carrying away all the related files from the MUDA office. Only a CBI probe could bring out the truth, he maintained.

Also referring to the alleged financial irregularities in the Maharshi Valmiki ST Development Corporation, he alleged that both the alleged irregularities had exposed the true face of the Congress government as well as the Chief Minister, and their claims of commitment towards oppressed and poor people.

Include access to washrooms, safeguards against misbehaviour in Bill, say women gig workers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Gig and Platform Workers' Convention was held in Bengaluru on Wednesday. FILE PHOTO

As the Karnataka government readies the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, women workers with ride-hailing apps and on-demand home services companies have highlighted the need to include provisions that take into account the female workforce.

Speaking at the Karnataka Gig and Platform Workers' Convention held in Bengaluru on Wednesday, several women workers demanded that the Bill should include provisions ensuring access to public washroom facilities and safeguards against misbehaviour from customers.

"Often, women have to take care of things at home along with the work. If some emergency comes up and we decline a few gigs, the platforms block us," said Manisha, who works with one of the on-demand home service companies.

No toilet access

Selvi, who works with the same company, noted that workers often do not get the time for food breaks, and are denied toilet access. On top of this, women workers who provide services at the homes of customers quite often face inappropriate behaviour from the latter. According to her, while the aggregators are quick to act on complaints from customers, most often they pay no heed to such grievances of female workers.

Prabhavati, who is a driver with a cab aggregator, pointed out that the lack of access to clean public washrooms is a huge problem for women drivers.

Agreement

Mamatha, All-India Unorganised Workers and Employees' Congress national coordinator, said that as part of the feedback to the draft Bill, it has been suggested that the aggregators should insist on customers signing an agreement before being provided home services, as a check against misbehaviour towards workers. "This way the company also becomes responsible for the rights and safety of women workers," she said.

At the event conducted to raise awareness among the gig workers of the State about the draft Bill, former Rajya Sabha member Rajeev Gowda, Additional Labour Commissioner Manjunath G., Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers national president Shaik Salauddin, Karnataka App-based Drivers Union head Mohammad Inayat Ali, and activists Nikhil Dey, Rakshita Swamy, and Chandan Kumar spoke.

Noting that the draft Bill is a result of 18 rounds of discussions over a year with trade unions, civil society organisations, gig workers, aggregators, and think tanks, Mr. Manjunath said the government was committed to ensuring the dignity of labour for gig workers.

Mr. Ali, who alleged that several attempts are being made to stall the Bill, told *The Hindu* on the sides of the event that the union would oppose all such efforts and hold protests if the Bill does not go through.

High Court asks govt. to submit details about steps taken to check the spread of dengue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday took *suo motu* cognisance of the rise and the spread of dengue across the State based on a letter to the editor, written by a reader, published in an English daily, and reports related to the spread of the disease published in various newspapers.

The court directed the State government to submit by July 23 the preventive and remedial measures initiated to check the spread of dengue in both urban and rural areas, steps taken to provide medical facilities, details of availability of infrastructure to meet medical exigency, steps and programmes undertaken for creating public awareness, and steps taken to control mosquito breeding.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind passed the order by treating the letter to the editor, written by Vijaya Kumar H.K. of Raichur and published on July 9, as a public interest litigation (PIL) petition.

The Bench said the letter had reflected the pulse of society regarding the spread of dengue, and other related issues as the letters to the editor are the pulse of society and considered as a barometer, reflected therein are the true affairs in society, perceived by intimate eyes of a common man."

The letter stated, "The Karnataka government must declare a medical emergency in response to a dengue outbreak that has already claimed many lives. Immediate action is imperative, including the establishment of a task force to collaborate with health workers to eliminate mosquitoes, led by experts, to address escalating cases across districts..." It further said that "sluggish response from the Health Department" had worsened the crisis, and hospitals were feeling overwhelmed by severe cases. "A transparent data collection system is essential, along with urging residents to collaborate with health workers to eliminate mosquito breeding sites and prevent water stagnation..."

News reports

The report with the headline 'Despite BBMP claims, water stagnation seen in many spots' published in *The Hindu*, and other news reports fortify the view expressed by the citizen in the letter to the editor, the Bench said.

While pointing out that the right to health is a necessary concomitant right flowing from Article 21 of the Constitution, the Bench observed that "there is a right to be treated with expert medicinal facilities and effective infrastructure, especially during the times while negotiating the threats from the disease".

Ayesha Khanum is chairperson of media academy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday appointed veteran journalist Ayesha Khanum as chairperson of the Karnataka Media Academy. She has worked in several news organisations and her previous stint was with Doordarshan. The government also appointed M.N. Ahobalapathy, journalist from Chitradurga, K. Venkatesh, senior news photographer, Bengaluru, and K. Ningajja, journalist from Gangavati, as members of the academy.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Birthday Remembrance
In Loving Memory of

Prabha Sundarram
11.07.1956 to 20.08.2023
Beloved Prabha, Amma and Grandma.
Memories of your love and affection are the rays of sunshine in our lives. You live in our hearts forever.
Fondly remembered by
Sundar ram, Anand, Ramya and Veda; Ajita, Vignesh and Parantapa

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM

N. JAYARAMAN
(ADVOCATE)
D.O.D - 11TH JULY 2018

YOU WILL REMAIN FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.

THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES ARE SOLACE FOREVER

N.JAYARAMAN ASSOCIATE
K. VENKATRAMANI
98867 81410

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the following Share Certificate issued by Biocon Limited are Stated to have been lost or misplaced or stolen and, I the registered shareholder thereof has applied to the Company for the issuance of Duplicate share Certificates as detailed below,

Folio number	Name of Registered Holder	Number of Securities Held	Security Certificate Number	Distinctive Numbers	
				From	To
BIO000152	C N R Rao	500	246	71172343	71172842
		500	100059	100307114	100307613
		3000	321157	1199995117	1199998116

The Public is hereby warned against purchasing or dealing in any way, with the above share certificates, any person(s) who has/have any claim(s) in respect of the said share certificates should lodge such claim(s) with the company at its registered office 20th KM, Hosur Road, Electronic City, B'lore -560100 within 15(fifteen) days of publication of this Notice, after which no claim will be entertained & the Company will proceed to issue duplicate share Certificates.

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E-Tender Notification

Two seperate online tenders are invited from interested bidders for Handling work and for Transportation work of FP cotton bales in Bengaluru region. Further details may be seen and tender may be downloaded from **www.cewacor.nic.in and www.eprocure.gov.in** Tender may be submitted online only at **www.cwceprocure.com** Last date for submission of tender: **22.07.2024.**

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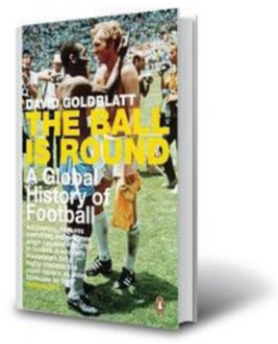
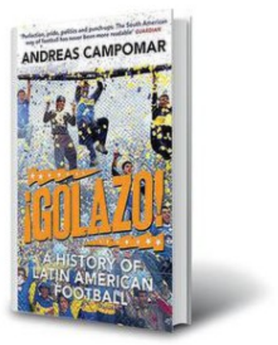
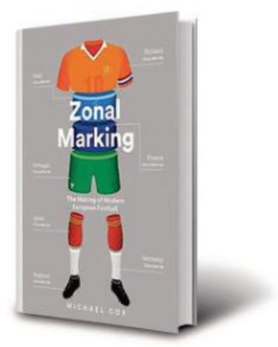






Grand spectacle: Spain's Lamine Yamal, scores his side's first goal during a match between Spain and France at the Euro 2024 tournament in Munich, Germany, on July 9. AP

Fever pitch: why football stories are also about society and politics

With Copa America and the European Championships on, dip into some sweeping histories of football in the North and South Americas, and books on the European game, which provide a window to the world beyond the playing field

N. Sudarshan

The footballing universe is conveniently split into two strands. On one side is the glitz, glamour and the magic associated with Latin and South American football, and on the other is the geeky and bookish domain of European football. And every four years these two worlds come together at the FIFA World Cup, and fans and pundits decipher and judge which of the two is stronger.

In the leap year – like 2024 – these two find concurrent prominence with their respective continental championships on at the same time. While Lionel Messi & Co. dazzle at the Copa America, the tournament for the Americas (North and South), Kylian Mbappe and the likes of 16-year-old Lamine Yamal (Spain) are busy uplifting the Euros, the event for European nations. Aficionados marvel at the genius of American stars while keeping a beady eye on the latest tactical trends emerging from Italy, Germany and The Netherlands.

Ties that bind

The books written, at least of the popular variety, largely mimic this dichotomy. There are sweeping histories of football in the Latin and South Americas, and also about individual countries, with the underlying themes being society and politics, and the place of football in this. In contrast, books on the European game do provide a window to the world beyond the pitch, but there always seems to be an attempt to create a totem pole of contributions and thus form a hierarchy.

Could it be because Europe, a continent replete with nations that colonised the world, saw football as an instrument of establishing supremacy while for the oppressed nations of the Americas it was a tool of self expression? Andreas Campomar certainly thinks so. The Uruguayan author, in *¡Golazo!: A History of Latin American Football,* shows how football that started as a pastime of a few expats became a national identity.

"Football had long become our bond," Campomar wrote in *The Guardian* in 2015. "It was the language we spoke together. We loved the flashier aspects of the game: the bicycle kick, the deft back-heel and the art of dribbling. (Our defenders had to have the gall to dribble in their own penalty area, even if it ended in failure.) We wanted guile and skill to trump Anglo-Saxon notions of tenacity and courage"

"Of course this was rather a colonial position to take, but I recognised it was one of the few ways that we, as South Americans, could still compete. Every four years the World Cup allowed Latin America to be remembered for its excellence. The continent's soul was reflected in her football."

A way of life

Christopher Hylland's *Tears at La Bombonera: Stories from a Six-Year Sojourn in South America* takes a similar line though it is not a treatise but more of a chronicle. Jonathan Wilson's *Angels with Dirty Faces*, the history of Argentinian football, Alex Bellos' *Futebol: the Brazilian Way of Life* and David Goldblatt's *Futebol Nation* are compelling accounts which add to the genre.

It is not that Europe doesn't tell similar football stories in an engaging manner. David Winner's *Brilliant Orange: The Neurotic Genius of Dutch Football* and Phil Ball's *Morbo: The Story of Spanish Football* are stellar works. The complicated relationship regions like Catalonia and Basque Country share with the Spanish national team are very well documented by Ball. Similarly, books about the sport during the time of the Nazis in Germany and the Fascists in Italy have seen the light of day. But they are more about how the identity of each country shaped the game rather than the other way round.

Interestingly, books that have a global bandwidth seem to tell European football stories rather well. Four books headline this list – *Football in Sun and Shadow* by Eduardo Galeano, *Football Against the Enemy* by Simon Kuper, *The Ball is Round* by Goldblatt and *Inverting the Pyramid* by Wilson. Galeano's effort "celebrates the glory of the game" through anecdotes, stories surrounding the origins of the game and different World Cups, and fleeting sketches of individual footballers. Kuper travels to more than 20 countries across the world to find out about the role of football in shaping them. Goldblatt's is a comprehensive history of the sport, which has acquired the status of a gold standard against which every other work will be measured. Wilson's is a history of tactics, a continuously evolving subject.

Club culture

The present era of football is driven by clubs. The franchises are where new ideas and ways of playing are taking shape. There used to be a time, like Wilson wrote in *The Guardian* in 2010, wherein "the World Cup served almost as a conference at which delegates arrived from all round the world and exchanged ideas."

But now, international football lags behind club football, and Europe is the epicentre of this shift. Michael Cox's *Zonal Marking: The Making of Modern European Football* offers a fascinating assessment of these tactical developments. Rory Smith's recent work, *Expected Goals: The Story of How Data Conquered Football and Changed the Game Forever* is another one for footballing nerds, in line with the perceived studiousness of Europe vis-a-vis the Latin and South Americas.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Considered one of the greatest novels of all time, Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* was published on this day in 1960. Here is a quiz on the book

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
A classic of modern American literature, this book won this prize, considered one of the most coveted awards in literary achievements, a year after it was published. What was the award?

QUESTION 2
This character, a lawyer in the book, has served as a moral hero for many readers and as a model of integrity for lawyers. Name the character.

QUESTION 3
Which genre does this novel belong to, given that it focuses on the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist from childhood to adulthood, most commonly known as 'coming-of-age'?

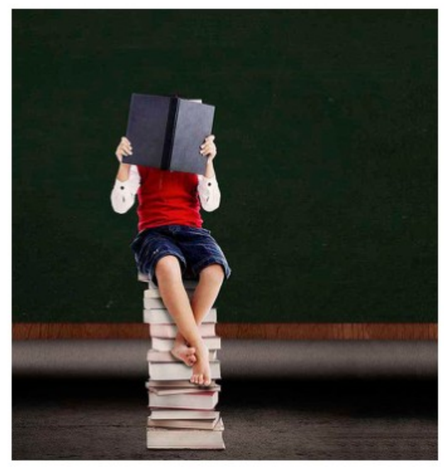
QUESTION 4
The book was made into a film in 1962, winning three Academy Awards. Who won the award for best actor, for portraying the leading role (answer to Q2)?

QUESTION 5
This character Dill Harris is the best friend of the Finch children in the novel. He is believed to be based on a childhood friend of Harper Lee, who was a novelist and playwright himself. Who was it?

QUESTION 6
What is the metaphor behind the title of the novel?

Visual question:
In this image, the sign that reads watchman refers to Harper Lee's only other book that was published years later. What is the name of the book, that the sign refers to?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Sunil Gavaskar is the only player to have scored a century in the first innings and a double century in the second innings against this team. **Ans: Against West Indies at the Queen's park oval, port of Spain in 1971**
2. Gavaskar scored his only century in the ODIs against this team. **Ans: Against New Zealand at the Vidarbha Cricket Association Ground, Nagpur**
3. Gavaskar played for this English county in 1980. **Ans: Somerset**
4. Gavaskar got dismissed in successive test matches against this team. **Ans: Sri Lanka in 1985**
5. This bowler has dismissed the maestro most times in tests. **Ans: Derek Underwood (12 times)**
6. Gavaskar has been involved in triple century partnership in tests with this person. **Ans: Dillip Vengsarkar**
7. Identify this batsman. **Ans: Mohammad Azharuddin**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Sadhan Kumar Panda| Abhay Krishan



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Appropriate replies when someone says 'sorry' (D. N. Kishore Sharma, Visakhapatnam)."

"Your reply will depend on the situation and your relationship with the person concerned. For example, if your friend says 'sorry' for stepping on your toe, your response could be any one of the following: 'doesn't matter,' 'don't worry,' 'it's o.k.' If the person who steps on your toe happens to be your boss and she apologizes, then your response could be, that's all right,' it doesn't matter at all.' But if you think you were partly responsible for your friend or boss stepping on your toe, then your response to their 'sorry' could be another 'sorry.' If you invite your friend to a restaurant and he turns up late, you could brush aside his apology with a simple 'forget it.' But if your boss comes late and apologizes in a similar situation, you could say, 'You're not really late' or 'don't worry,' or 'no need to apologize, I just got here myself.' The responses given are some of the usual ones and these are not the only ones."

"Emotional, emotive (K. K. Nair, Kottayam)."

"In 1926, Fowler considered 'emotive' a 'superfluous' word. He felt that it was unnecessary as the word 'emotional' served the purpose. In the 1965 revised edition of Fowler's Modern English Usage, Sir Ernest Gowers says: " 'Emotional' means not only given to emotion but also like 'emotive,' appealing to the emotions. But modern usage has differentiated the words usefully by assigning 'emotive' to the cause and 'emotional' to the effect."

An emotive speech is a speech appealing to the emotions, one that aims at evoking an emotional response. An emotional speech is a speech that is marked by emotions. Good writers maintain the distinction between the two. Nowadays most native speakers do not make a distinction between the two words and based on general usage, some recent dictionaries give the same meaning for both."

"Can the word 'savvy' be used as an adjective? (Thanga Kuberan, Madurai)."

"Savvy can be used as a noun, a verb and an adjective. When used as a noun, it means 'common sense, understanding, shrewdness.'

Promod is a man with a lot of savvy.

When used as verb, it means 'to understand.'

I am the boss here, savvy?

Annie, do as I tell you, savvy?

As a verb, 'savvy' is used in the imperative or the present tense. 'No savvy' means 'I don't understand.' When used as an adjective, the word means 'astute' or shrewd.'

Rita is a savvy reporter from Bombay.

The savvy lawyer was able to see through her lies.

Our college has a good cricket team. Whet we need is a savvy captain to make it a winning team.

The first syllable 'sa' is pronounced like the 'sa' in 'sand.' The second syllable 'vvy' is pronounced like the 'vi' in 'village'. The stress is on the first syllable. 'Savvy' is a slang word.

Published in The Hindu on August 25, 1992.

Word of the day

Chockablock:
packed full to capacity

Synonyms: chock-full, cram full, crowded

Usage: *The shelves were chockablock with books and papers.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/chockablockpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʧɒkəˌblɒk/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Telling South Indian history through artefacts

At a recent talk at The Bangalore Room in Indiranagar, Chennai-based historian Dr. Pradeep Chakravarthy delved into the stories behind various historical objects

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

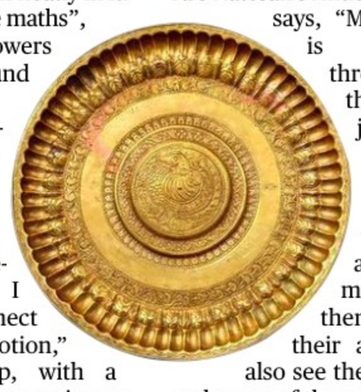
It is a large house with cream walls and lilac windows situated along a narrow road in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district, solid-looking but not particularly distinctive. "It is very boring on the outside," agrees Chennai-based historian Dr. Pradeep Chakravarthy, nodding towards the photograph of this old house that he has shared with the audience of The Bangalore Room in Indiranagar, who are here to attend his talk titled *A History of South India through Selected Antiques*.

And yet, it is this house, one that six generations of his family have lived in, that triggered his lifelong passion for history, says Pradeep, recalling lazy summer afternoons spent in that house as a boy, rummaging through the many discarded objects that littered the upstairs floor of this house. "One rule of our family was that when something was broken, we threw it upstairs," he says wryly.

On one such excavation, he found an object that triggered his lifelong fascination for history: a child's notebook, so old that the brown paper covering it flaked off when he touched it. He remembers flipping open the book, clearly one dedicated to maths, and finding a rather relatable epithet written neatly in it. It said, "I hate maths", with flowers drawn around the words. "Here was somebody who I didn't know...everything in his life was so different...but I could connect with that emotion," says Pradeep, with a laugh. "That was an important moment for me because I realised that, fundamentally, human nature doesn't change."

This one image, he says, taught him to see history very differently – not as a long string of dates and battles, but as stories of people whose lives were not very different from those of our own. "Whether it was the Mughal kings we know so much about or the South Indian kings we know nothing about...their lives were very similar to us in terms of feelings and emotions." The other thing he learnt from this home, growing up surrounded by old objects, was having a visual image of history. Pointing to a range of antiques arranged behind him at the talk, loaned for the occasion by Bengaluru's Natesan's Antiqarts, he says, "My hope is that through these objects, not only will you see them and admire them for their art, but also see the stories and some of the meanings behind it," says Pradeep.

Dr. Pradeep Chakravarthy during the lecture, and some of the antiques that were discussed at the talk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



A tradition of light

The first object that Pradeep selects from the collection on display is a beautiful bronze lamp. "Lamps started off with a very practical point of view–giving light," he says. He then goes on to decode the various elements of the lamp, starting from the very top. "The minute you see this shape, with four wick holders, you know it is from Tirunelveli in the southern part of Tamil Nadu. According to him, the tradition of worshipping gods we are familiar with came fairly recently, only about 2000-odd years ago. "In the Rig Veda, the oldest Hindu texts, the two main gods it concerned itself with was Agni, which was for fire, and Indra, which was for water," he says. The oldest tradition, he adds, was simply to worship just the lamp. "That is true enlightenment. When you can focus your eyes on the lamp...on a steady flame...it calms and focuses the mind," he says before expanding on some of the finer details of this object.

For instance, he points out this lamp was created using the lost wax process, an ancient metal casting tradition dating back to at least 4000 BCE, where a mould made with wax is used to cast metal. Also, the upper part of the lamp, narrow at the top and enlarged at its waist, appears to represent a Mother Goddess, a symbol of fertility found in prehistoric excavation sites, "something we must have worshipped around 10,000 years ago," he says. Even though we have forgotten this tradition of worshipping this Mother Goddess figure, "the motif has continued," he says. Additionally, in the region of the Thamirabarani river, where this lamp is probably from, pottery shards with images of a female figure like this, carrying two sheaves of rice with a river with fish and crocodiles in the background, have been discovered. "All of these are fertility symbols," he explains.

Pradeep then goes on to focus on another lamp, this one with a hamsa effigy on it. According to him, this mythical bird is a common motif found not just on lamps but also sculpted into the public audience halls of palaces of the past.

"The reason we like the hamsa is that it was a mythical bird considered so pure at heart that if you gave it a mixture of water and milk, she would drink the milk and leave the water behind," he says. He decodes the metaphor of this symbol, saying that it is for us to remember that while there is good and bad in everything, we need to take the good and leave the bad. Pradeep also brings in the concept of ramya, or inner delight. "Every motif that is on a work of art or object has an inner meaning," he says. "You need to keep looking at it and ask yourself why the artist put it here."

Pradeep spoke about all the other objects on display, tracing the techniques, history, mythology, and philosophy that have shaped them: a pithari or oil jar, Tanjore paintings, mixed metal receptacles, a silver-inlaid hookah base, and a colourful metal leaf tray from Kerala.

Among the more fascinating stories Pradeep narrated was the connection between Tanjore paintings and what is today Karnataka. In 1565, the Vijayanagara Empire fell after the Battle of Talikota and was taken over by the combined army of the Deccan sultanates of Ahmadnagar Bidar, Bijapur, and Golconda. Tanjore, which had become part of the empire back then and was being run as a feudatory kingdom by the Nayaks, was going through conflict, so the Sultan of Bijapur sent a force commanded by the Maratha general Ekoji Bhonsle, the younger half-brother of the Maratha king Shivaji, to quell it. Ekoji went on to defeat the Nayaks and become the ruler of Tanjore, establishing a Maratha Kingdom that lasted nearly 200 years. Under the rule of the Maratha king Serfoji II, Tanjore paintings truly grew into their current form, building on pre-existing art traditions that share many similarities with the Mysore school of paintings, both having Vijayanagar influences. "What Serfoji does differently is that he introduced the concept of gesso with a gold sheet," he says, adding that Tanjore paintings, which are traditionally painted on a cloth-covered board, embody the very fundamental philosophical concept of srishti, sthithi and samsara (creation, condition, destruction). "Weather changes the wooden board... the paint on the cloth will start cracking...the board, glue and cloth will move," he says. "Tanjore paintings are meant to be destroyed."

Why historical objects matter

At the event, Pradeep also admitted that much of his own learning came from an antique dealer he knew, who had a wealth of knowledge about the art and antiques of South India and was willing to share it. "What I learnt was a factor of the intelligent questions I asked," says Pradeep, who firmly believes that asking the right questions and observing things more carefully is key to understanding the past.

After all, the word history originates in the Greek word 'historía' or inquiry, stemming from the Greek tradition of asking questions. "The whole understanding and purpose of history was to ask questions. The more questions we asked, the more we learnt what we didn't know," he says. Pradeep believes our history also has lessons for our present. And if we don't learn from them, we are condemned to repeat it, he warns. "That is what is happening today," he says.

Cinematic in-flight experience

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

AirAsia has launched an innovative cinematic in-flight experience for moviegoers to selected cinemas across the country to showcase its destinations as part of the moviegoers' experience.

The airline said that this collaboration will enhance AirAsia's outreach via more than 130 cinemas across 12 cities over the next six months.

During this period, AirAsia will also collaborate with more than 130 local travel content creators to showcase its destinations to Asia, Australia, and beyond, spanning bustling cities, serene beaches, historic landmarks, and vibrant local cultures.

AirAsia said it has actively expanded routes for India in 2024, providing direct connectivity to two of its major Asian hubs, Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and Bangkok in Thailand, as a gateway to over 130 destinations across the world.

"Since early 2024, we have expanded our network in India with 10 additional routes, bringing the total to 26 routes from India to Malaysia and Thailand.

Bengaluru's office space stock to become highest in India by 2030

Technology, engineering, manufacturing, and BFSI sectors are expected to be primary demand drivers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru office stock (commercial real estate) is set to touch 330-340 million sq. ft. by 2030, the highest in India, said a study released by global realty advisory firm CBRE in association with Confederation of Indian Industry here on Wednesday.

Technology, Engineering & Manufacturing, and BFSI sectors are expected to be primary demand drivers, while life sciences, aviation, and automobile are likely to be emerging drivers, according to the analysis.

Emerging locations in north Bengaluru are attracting significant interest due to improved infrastructure. FILE PHOTO

Demand drivers

The report also pointed out that with an average annual absorption of about 15-16 million sq. ft. over the past few years, Bengaluru has also been the front-runner in office absorption as compared with other Indian cities. Technology, engineering & manufacturing and BFSI sectors are expected to be the main demand drivers of office space while life sciences, aviation and automobile are likely to be the emerging sectors that would drive demand.

As per the study titled: 'Karnataka Horizon: Navigating Real Estate Excellence in the South', Bengaluru has become India's largest and most crucial office market, outpacing all other cities. The city boasts a more than two-fold increase in office stock, rising from 100 million sq. ft. in 2013 to over 223 million sq. ft. as of Jun'24, holding the highest share among the Indian cities.

Tech sector

The technology sector accounts for 30-35% of annual absorption in the city, primarily in the commercial hubs of ORR and Whitefield, the key growth areas with a high concentration of global corporations.

Additionally, emerging locations in North Bengaluru are attracting significant interest due to improved infrastructure, ample land availability, and competitive rentals. Apart from technology, other sectors such as engineering & manufacturing, flexible space operators, and BFSI prominently contribute to Bengaluru's commercial dynamism.

Global capability

The report also highlights that Bengaluru has cemented its status as the leader for global capability centres (GCCs), commanding a 41% share in India's GCC leasing market (from 2022 to Jun'24). Bengaluru's GCC growth is driven by a combination of factors, including a skilled talent pool, premium Grade-A assets, and a well-developed IT ecosystem, the CBRE-CII joint study found.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 11, 1974

Thermal Power Station: S. Kanara Dt. Council's Plea

Mangalore, July 10: The establishment of a thermal power station near the new Mangalore harbour has been proposed for inclusion in the South Kanara district's Fifth Plan. The Special District Development Council, which met here yesterday, Mr. J.K. Arora, Deputy Commissioner and Chairman presiding, accepted the Rs. 103.30 crore district plan and recommended the same for Government concurrence. It was decided to recommend to the Government to exploit the vast potential offered by the Varah river in the northern part of the district for power production and irrigation by undertaking multipurpose projects, during the Fifth Plan. The Govt. was urged to develop Coondapur Fort as a fishing harbour under the State Plan.

Drought Prone Area Programme for Kadur

Kadur, July 10: In view of the continuous failure of rains in Kadur taluk for the last three years, it has been decided to undertake the Drought Prone Area Programme in the whole taluk in phases. A total allotment of Rs. 6 lakhs has been made by the State Government with the assistance of the Central Government for the programme.

Crops over nearly two lakh acres of land in the taluk sown with groundnut, ragi and jhola have been lost this year. Under the relief programme last year nearly Rs. 30 lakhs were spent in the taluk and in the coming five years Rs. 12 lakhs will be spent annually mainly on irrigation schemes.

Stitching seven stories into a play

Ventures Theatre's *Locked Down*, directed by Susanto Banerjee, to be staged in Bengaluru on July 12 looks at the emotional scars caused by the pandemic

Shilpa Anandraj

We may have healed physically from the devastations of the pandemic, but the emotional scars may run deep for many. While some have learned to move on, for others, it may have rocked the boat of their relationships and their souls. That is what the English play, *Locked Down*, directed by Susanto Banerjee delves into.

"The script was developed during the first phase of the lockdown," says Susanto. "We were not able to be physically present at a rehearsal space, so we gathered on a call and started inviting stories from the members of our theatre group."

There was no agenda, Susanto says when they started sharing stories. "It was more like a platform to share experiences. While doing so, seven profound stories came forth and we felt they could be stitched together to make a play."

The characters were created first, says Susanto. "They were then divided into stories and scenes and built into sequences. This was later shared with Ruby Lala and Antara Mukherjee, who wrote the play for us".

Locked Down was first staged in 2022. "We revisited the play and made some edits. We added a few more insights and recreated it. We are staging the updated version now. *Locked Down* is a devised play as it is devised from scratch."

The play, with 13 actors on stage in a realistic format, is a collage of stories and emotions. "The way I look at play is the way you would perceive a tree from top down. First you see the leaves and the branches. As you descend further you see the trunk, but cannot see the roots. Yet, the size of the tree and its trunk gives you an idea of how strong and deep the roots are. That's how the play looks at people and relationships – first at a macro level and narrowing down to the deeper issues about relationships".

Ventures Theatre was started by Susanto and his wife Mahua Sengupta. Susanto started his journey in theatre in 1999 and moved to Bengaluru in 2005, took a break for a few years and then founded Ventures Theatre.

The tagline of Ventures Theatre is a platform for theatre and theatre-based learning. "We started Theatre Based Behavioural Learning in the areas of conflict management, emotional intelligence, unconscious bias, team building, verbal and non-verbal communication and more."

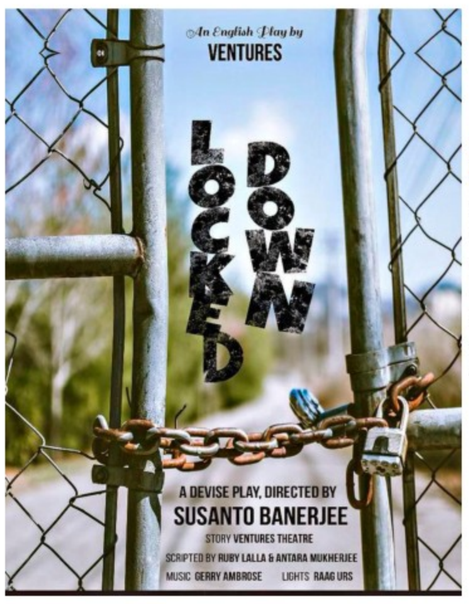
The pandemic, Susanto says, made the world look at online options. "We forayed into using the virtual platform for theatre too, making it a viable option to experience this unique offering."

Both Susanto and Mahua come from the corporate world, but Susanto quit his job to give more time to theatre. "I use theatre for behavioural learning, which I take to the corporates and am also on the advisory board of some startups."

Ventures Theatre's very first play was in Bengali. "*Khub Kacher* was staged only once. The following four productions were in English to reach a larger audience. Most of our plays are set in such a way that it can happen in any city or place. *Locked Down* specifically reminds us of the lockdown due to certain unique features of that time which find a way into this play."

Speaking about subtitling plays, Susanto says, "My personal experience with subtitles has not been good. When they come up on a screen through a projector on to a screen on the stage, it distracts the audience from the main action and story happening on stage. The best thing, I believe in, is to give a synopsis of the play in advance and then stage the play without any subtitles."

Locked Down will be staged on July 12, at Bangalore International Centre at 7.30pm. Tickets are available on BookMyShow.



Story of our lives Scenes from different segments of Locked Down. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

> That's how the play looks at people and relationships — first at a macro level and narrowing down to the deeper issues about relationships
>
> **SUSANTO BANERJEE**
> Director of *Locked Down*

CITYBEATS

Friday fun day

JULY 12
Get ready for an evening filled with comedy, laughter, and madness at Gaurav Gupta's stand-up comedy show 'Market Down Hai' and 'Being Baniya.' Known for his distinctive comedic style and sharp wit, Gaurav promises to keep you entertained with his humorous take on life.
At Phoenix Marketcity Courtyard, from 7.30 pm onwards. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Divine melodies

JULY 13
Experience the evening of 'Bolava Vitthal' presented by Pancham Nishad on the eve of Ashadhi Ekadashi. This 14th annual celebration features *abhangs* performed by classical vocalists Jayateerth Mevundi and Devaki Pandit, accompanied by an ensemble of musicians.
At Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram, 6 pm onwards. Tickets available on BookMyShow.

Vibe with Vineeth

JULY 13
Join a fun concert featuring the Malayali multi-hyphenate Vineeth Srinivasan. Presented by Noizz Entertainment and Sia Entertainment, it will feature Vineeth's hits such as 'Karale,' from *Ustad Hotel* 'Anuraagam,' from *Thattathin Marayathu* 'Akaleyo Nee,' from *Urumi*.
At Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield, 7pm onwards. Tickets on BookMyShow.

PET PALS

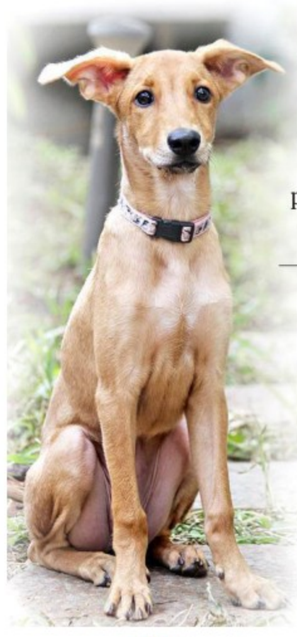
Ginger

Ginger, a joyful 4.5-month-old brown pup, is seeking a sweet family. Abandoned in a parking lot, Ginger's past is forgotten as she blossoms into a happy, energetic ball of fur. This fully vaccinated puppy is a foodie who loves curd rice, boiled veggies, and watermelon. Don't worry about messes - Ginger is already potty trained. She even responds to the 'sit' and 'shake' requests. But Ginger's true talent is spreading happiness. Her sunny personality is contagious, making her ideal for an active family who loves playtime and cuddles.

For more information and queries on adoption, visit letslivetogether.org or call 9986413916.

Mysore Pak

Mysore Pak, a spunky three-and-a-half-month-old brown pup, is searching for her fur-ever home. Despite a tough beginning, Mysore Pak's cheerful spirit shines through. This friendly, energetic pup loves meeting new people and playing with other dogs. Healthy and thriving on a simple diet of rice, curd, and vegetables, Mysore Pak is already a master of the handshake trick. Her ideal home is one filled with love. A family who enjoys walks and playtime would be a perfect match for this vivacious pup.



Dharwad Peda

Dharwad Peda, a charming four-month-old brown pup, is looking for her playful pack. Found alone near a drain, this survivor's spirit is infectious. Super friendly and cuddly, Dharwad Peda is all about playtime and jumps for joy. She has already mastered 'sit,' 'catch,' and 'paw,' and her special talent is impressive rabbit hops. This healthy, vaccinated pup enjoys a simple diet of curd, boiled veggies and rice, with a particular fondness for curd. Dharwad Peda would thrive in a loving home bustling with a child/children for endless games and cuddles.

'Daivas are not myths for us'

Smruti S

Novelist and screenwriter K Hari Kumar was recently in the city to launch his newest book *Daiva*. Hari has written eight books and penned screenplays for the Malayalam movie *E* and the Hindi language web-series *Bhram*. Almost all of Hari's books delve into the realms of mythology and folklore, constructing narratives that are psychologically thrilling.

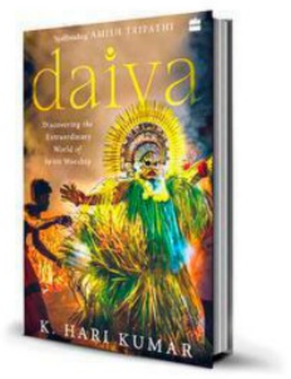
At the launch of *Daiva* in Bengaluru's Atta Galatta, Hari said, "An oracle once said whatever you do in life, has to do with the undead and at first, I thought that meant ghosts. But undead does not just refer to ghosts – it is everything that is infinite. Anything that is not dead, is undead. Every spiritual aspect comes under this umbrella."

Daiva is a work of nonfiction and deals with the culture of spirit worship or *Daivaradhane* in the coastal region of Tulunadu. These practices began in a bid to please ancestral gods and protect worshippers from evil. These deities were not just confined to Hindu culture, but came from nature, *Matru shaktis* (feminine forces), and those who met with a tragic end.

"Daivas aren't merely myths, especially for Tulu speaking people, it's a part of their life. They call it *Sathyalu* or the truth," he said. The book serves as an introduction to those interested in the world of spirit deities and its practices.

Into the unknown K Hari Kumar, author of *Daiva*, at its launch in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"This is drawn from my personal journey and enquiry into the *daivaradhna* (spirit worship) of Tulunadu," said Hari. His ancestors left Tulunadu and with each successive generation relocating elsewhere, a fragment of their culture was lost. "I always wanted to know more about my ancestors and whom they worshipped. That's how I started my enquiry and that is how my book came into being."



According to Hari, similar practices of spirit worship are found throughout India and the world. "Daiva is called *Thayangullum* in Tulu and *Theyyam* in north Kerala. Certain differences and variations have resulted due to geographic barriers and linguistic evolutions. There are similar trance-based dances in Africa and Tibet as well. Perhaps at a primodial evolutionary level we are all connected somewhere. Those are the existential questions I am seeking while documenting this culture," he says.

Hari says one of the challenges he faced during his research was the scarcity of English literature on the subject. "There were manuscripts in Kannada and Tulu as well as few written about 140 years ago by Britishers. I began with the manuscripts of AC Bernell. All the stories were based on *prarthanas* or oral Tulu verses which aren't written down. I travelled into the Tulu region and got in touch with experts to understand it."

"If you're not respectful and are dismissive, you will only see whatever is there on the surface. To people who believe in *devaradhane* it gives hope, it instils fear. That will only come if you respect it," he says.

Speaking of feminism and spirit worship, Hari said, "*Yakshis* come from the word *yakshini*, these are forms of shakti. Similarly, the word *dayan* is derived from *dakini*. In Odissa, when there is a property dispute or a fight amongst the menfolk, the women are blamed and called *dahini* or witch and hanged. Such practices happen even today and activists are fighting against them."

Hari dropped a few hints about his next book, saying, "From here, I move on to a work of fiction set along the India-Nepal border about a female deity who has been wrongly branded as a witch."

A lot of rework had been done to draft a screenplay for *Bhram* that was based on his book, *The Other Side of Her*. Though the story remained the same, the cultural premises had to be revised. Hari says when one writes for OTT, they are at mercy of the creative team.

"Though I had set the story in Kerala, the producers were not convinced about an actor from the South playing the lead. We had no option but to create a fictitious tribe and change the protagonist to a North Indian."

SC refuses to stay HC's pre-arrest bail to Bhavani Revanna

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to immediately stay the anticipatory bail granted to Bhavani Revanna, mother of suspended Janata Dal-Secular MP and rape accused Prajwal Revanna, in a kidnapping case involving one of the victims of her son's alleged sexual assaults.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan pointed out to the Karnataka government and Special Investigation Team, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, that the High Court had granted her protection from arrest on the grounds that she was a 55-year-old woman and could not be punished for her son's alleged crimes.

Mr. Sibal said the High Court's decision to grant her the relief of anticipatory bail was "most unfortunate". The kidnapping would not have possibly happened without her knowledge and participation. "The victim was in captivity under the directions of the family," Mr. Sibal submitted.

The Bench, however, pointed out that the name of the mother did not feature either in the complaint or in the witness statement given to the Magistrate under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. "We are only considering the question of liberty of a woman," the Bench said.

CBI chargesheets former Kerala Police and IB officials in ISRO case

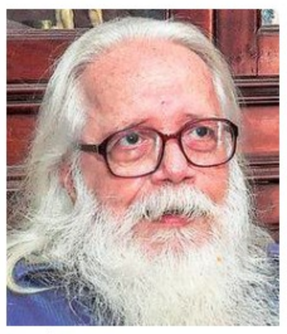
The espionage case stirred a political storm in Kerala in 1994; according to the chargesheet, ex-police officer Vijayan, who played a crucial role in false implication of victims, has been booked for assault and use of criminal force against a woman

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has chargesheeted former Kerala Police officers S. Vijayan, Siby Mathews, K. Joshua, and P.S. Jayaprakash and former Intelligence Bureau official R.B. Sreekumar in connection with the alleged framing of space scientist Nambi Narayanan and Maldivian natives Marian Rasheeda and Fausia Hassan in the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) espionage case.

The details of the chargesheet, which was filed last month, were known on Wednesday after copies of the court document were obtained by various parties on the day. The case which began on September 20, 1994 with Mr. Vijayan booking a case against Ms. Rasheeda had stirred a political storm in Kerala. A section of the Congress leaders, who owed their allegiance to A.K. Antony, used it to secure the resignation of the then Chief Minister K. Karunakaran who allegedly had shielded a senior police officer.

The accused were charged for conspiracy offences, a public servant intentionally creating an incorrect document with the intent to cause harm, fabrication of false evidence,


Nambi Narayanan

voluntarily causing hurt, voluntarily causing hurt to extort a confession and wrongful confinement.

Mr. Vijayan, the first accused, has also been booked for assault and use of criminal force against a woman with the intent to outrage her modesty, according to the CBI.

The CBI had registered the case following a report filed by the Supreme Court-appointed D.K. Jain Committee. The committee was appointed following a petition filed by former space scientist Nambi Narayanan, who was allegedly falsely booked in the case and tortured. The apex court, which had allowed him a compensation of ₹50 lakh, had also ordered not to reveal the contents of the Jain committee.

The CBI investigation, according to the chargesheet, revealed that Mr. Vijayan played a very active role in the false implication of the victims. He molested Ms. Rasheeda in a hotel room and seized her travel documents without creating any records and obstructed her travel back to Male, it said.

D. Sashikumaran, K. Chandersekhar, Mr. Narayanan and K.S. Sharma were arrested on directions from Mr. Mathews without any evidence against them. Mr. Mathews allowed the unlawful interrogation of victims by the Intelligence Bureau officials and allowed their physical and mental torture by the IB officials and created false records, it said. Mr. Sreekumar was responsible for physical and mental torture of arrested victims.

36 snakebite deaths reported this year in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The number of snakebite cases and deaths are on a steady rise in Karnataka. While a total of 5,418 snakebite cases and 36 deaths have been reported in the first six months (January to June) this year, as many as 6,596 snakebite cases and 19 deaths were reported in 2023.

While Hassan has reported the highest number of cases at 419, Chickballapur and Davangere follow with 373 and 369 cases, respectively. The highest number of snakebite deaths have been recorded in Tumakuru and Koppal (five each) followed by Chitradurga and Uttara Kannada that have recorded four and three deaths, respectively, according to official data.

Following a huge gap between the number of snakebite envenoming and deaths reported from direct surveys and in official data, Karnataka in February this year declared snakebite deaths and cases notifiable under the Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020. Following this, the State Health Department directed all hospitals and medical colleges (teaching hospitals), including private facilities, to mandatorily enter all snakebite cases and deaths on the Integrated Health Information Portal (IHIP).

Attributing the rise in cases to improved reporting by hospitals, Ansar Ahmed, Project Director, Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), said snakebite envenoming is a neglected tropical disease caused by the bite of a venomous snake.

Globally, there are approximately 2,000 species of snakes, with 310 species found in India alone.

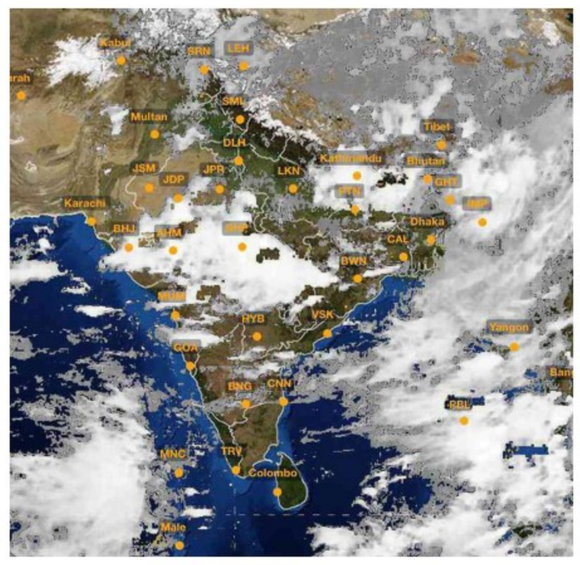
Out of these, 66 species are venomous and pose a serious threat to human health. The 'big four' venomous species in India include the Indian cobra, common krait, Russell's viper, and the saw-scaled viper.

In addition to these, Karnataka is home to several region-specific venomous snakes, such as the king cobra, the Malabar pit viper, and the hump-nosed pit viper, the doctor said.

The diversity of snake species in Karnataka necessitates an action plan to address the challenges, said Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who inaugurated a workshop on 'State Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snake Bite Envenoming (SAPSE)' on Tuesday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa and north interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	27.1	Kozhikode	20	32.5	23.6
Ahmedabad	—	35.3	27.2	Kurnool	0.3	36.3	25.3
Aizawl	9	29.8	23.7	Lucknow	—	37.9	28.7
Allahabad	—	38.0	29.2	Madurai	—	39.7	25.7
Bengaluru	—	30.2	20.2	Mangaluru	—	29.5	22.4
Bhopal	—	33.6	26.0	Mumbai	4	31.8	24.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.9	26.6	Mysuru	—	30.0	—
Chandigarh	0.8	37.9	28.0	New Delhi	31	36.4	27.5
Chennai	—	36.4	28.2	Patna	—	35.6	29.0
Coimbatore	—	33.0	22.6	Port Blair	—	31.5	25.4
Dehradun	3	35.2	24.0	Puducherry	—	36.9	27.2
Gangtok	8	20.5	18.2	Pune	1	32.6	23.8
Goa	100	28.0	23.3	Raipur	41.4	—	25.2
Guwahati	—	32.1	27.2	Ranchi	—	32.2	25.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	23.0	Shillong	11	24.4	18.4
Hyderabad	0.2	32.6	24.0	Shimla	—	28.0	22.0
Imphal	2	26.9	23.5	Srinagar	—	29.8	19.9
Jaipur	—	36.0	28.0	Thiruvananthapuram	8	31.0	24.5
Kochi	20	30.4	24.0	Tiruchi	—	38.3	27.0
Kohima	7	25.2	18.1	Vijayawada	7	36.2	26.2
Kolkata	—	36.2	28.6	Visakhapatnam	—	31.7	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.15	.33	22	57	65	
Bengaluru	.14	.36	80	35	58	
Chennai	5	7	90	66	62	
Delhi	8	49	13	262	159	
Hyderabad	.11	.10	30	99	86	
Kolkata	.12	.24	40	40	41	
Lucknow	8	7	94	60	86	
Mumbai	.—	.78	75	35	33	
Pune	2	.14	45	109	118	
Visakhapatnam	7	.52	15	—	82	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 249 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN ILLAM, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.
TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of Metropolitan Transport Corporation (Chennai) Limited, Tenders are invited for issuing licence for Supply of Man power for operation and maintenance of MTC fuel station (retail outlet) at various locations from the eligible tenderers who shall submit the documentary evidence as indicated below.

Sl.No.	Description of Tender	EMD Amount in Rs.	Eligibility Criteria
1.	Supply of Man Power for Operation and Maintenance of MTC Retail outlet fuel station Located at (1) MKB Nagar (2) Mogappair West (J.J. Nagar)	Rs.75,000/-	1. Registered firm (SSI / MSME / UDAYAM) 2. One year working experience in any fuel station etc & Minimum Annual Turn over Rs. One Crore

The Tender document and EMD details are available at Government e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app.** Bidders are requested to upload their tender documents through the above portal only.
Tender submission start date : **11.07.2024** at **13.00 Hrs.**
Tender submission end date : **01.08.2024** upto **14.30 Hrs.**
Tender will be opened on : **01.08.2024** at **15.00 Hrs.**
Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the website and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically. MTC (Chennai) Ltd. reserves the right to accept / reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.
DIPR/2266/TENDER/2024 — **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Government of Tamilnadu
Commissionerate of Stationery and Printing, Chennai-2
Cte.No.T1/12218/2024 — **TENDER NOTICE** — Dated: 09.07.2024

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited along with required samples for fixing rate contract for the purchase of P.S Plates, CTP Plates, Ink, Chemicals and Oil & Lubricants, Rubber Blanket, Packing Materials, Binding Materials, Computer Consumables from Manufacturers / Distributors and Authorized dealers as per the following schedule and also E-Tenders are invited for Registration of firm in the list of Approved Waste Paper Dealers.

S.No.	Groups & items	Tender Form can be accessed	Tender closing date and time
1.	Group I to VIII (1. P.S Plates, 2. CTP Plates, 3. Ink, 4. Chemicals and Oil & Lubricants, 5. Rubber Blanket, 6. Packing Materials, 7. Binding Materials and 8. Computer Consumables)	From 11.07.2024 To 31.07.2024	31.07.2024 11.30 a.m.
2.	Applications for Registration of Firm in the List of Approved Waste Paper Dealers for the removal of Waste Paper Materials in Tamil Nadu State Government Offices For one Year through Empanelment E-Tender.	From 11.07.2024 To 12.08.2024	12.08.2024 11.30 a.m.

Tender forms can also be downloaded from www.tntenders.gov.in & www.stationeryprinting.tn.gov.in
DIPR/2276/Tender/2024 — **General Manager**

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SHAHABAD, DIST. KALABURAGI
www.shahabadcity.mrc.gov.in/email.lditstaff_ulb_shahabad@yahoo.com
No.: CMCS/T.S./15th Finance/2024-25 — Date: 08.07.2024
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Procurement Tender is invited by City Municipal Council Shahabad, for total 05 works under 15th Finance Scheme (Balance Grant) for the year 2020-21, 2023-24 and SBM 2.0 Grant along with Indent Number, subject to KW-1, KW-2 andKW-3 Terms, KPPP Tender is as below.
1) **Indents:** 1. DMA/2024-25 /IND2207 (Two Cover), 2. DMA/2024-25/IND2152, 3. DMA/2024-25/IND2294 (Two Cover), 4. DMA/2024-25/OW/Work_INDENT20347 (Two Cover), 5. DMA/2024-25/IND2197, 2) Tender amount (Rs. in lakhs): **Minimum 1.57, Maximum 60.90,** 3) EMD Amount (in Rs.): **Minimum 3925.00, Maximum 91000.000**. 4) Eligibility of contractors: Eligible Contractors and PWD Contractors, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting at CMC Shahabad : **19-07-2024 11:30am,** 6) Last date for submitting Tender in e-portal: **23.07.2024 at 5.00 PM.** 7) Date of opening the Tender: **25.07.2024 at 11.00 AM.**
Details of the said works and other conditions can be obtained through KPP Portal website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and further information if required can be obtained from the office of The Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Shahabad during office hours.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/196/KSMC&A/2024-25 — **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Shahabad.**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. HE-TRD-2024-25-OT-12 dated: 04/07/2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the work	Approx. value
OHE Modification for Provision/Extension High Level Platform at Savanur, Bhanapur, Hitnal Halt, Annigeri, Ibrahimpur, Hombal, Lakhmapur, Ginigera and Bannikoppa Railway Stations in HUBBALLI Division.	Rs. 4,17,02,881.20

Last date of submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 31-07-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Hubli
PUB/241/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Government of Karnataka
Sub Divisional Hospital, Sagar
No.: SDHS/P.F.S.T./33/2024-25 — Date: 08.07.2024
e-Tender Notice Regarding Supply of prepared Diet Food
e-Tender is invited through e-procurement as per two tender document system from eligible firms for availing supply of prepared Diet Food for Sub Divisional Hospital, Sagar and Mother and Children Hospital, Sagar and interested, eligible firms can upload the rates from 09.07.2024 and are requested to log on to Department website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in regarding this. Further information can be obtained from the e-portal.
Sd/- Administrative Medical Officer, Sub Divisional Hospital, Sagar
DIPR/smg/No.52/07/24-25/KSMCA/SMG/239

Government of Odisha - **"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE**
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.CCEKC-05 / 2024-25
e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.2902, dt.09.07.2024

1.	No. of the work	:- 3 number Building Works
2.	Estimated cost	:- Rs.136.62 Lakhs to Rs.868.02 Lakhs.
3.	Class of Contractor	:- "B" Class, "A" Class, "Special" Class
4.	Period of completion	:- 04 (Four) Calendar Months to 15 (Fifteen) Calendar Months
5.	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.00 Hours of 19.07.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 02.08.2024.
6.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:- 16.00 Hours of 02.08.2024
7.	Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 03.08.2024
8.	Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **"http://tendersodisha.gov.in"**
B-78: — **Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.**
OIPR-34033/11/0012/2425

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.
E-Tender Notice
National Competitive Bidding
CMRL invites tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the works as detailed below:
Tender No: CMRL/P&D/CS/DPR-18/2024: "Preparation of Detail Project Report, Feasibility study, Market analysis, Transactional advice, Concept plans, Land use report etc including submission of documents to CMDA/GCC for approval, preparation of Cost Estimate and Tender Documents for property development at Alandur, Alapakkam Junction, Boat Club, Nandanam and Wimco Nagar Depot."
(i) Document available from: 15 July 2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 12 Aug 2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.
For further details, please visit :
For NIT : **www.chennaimetrorail.org**
For Downloading Bid Documents : **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**
DIPR/2272/Tender/2024 — Sd/- **Director (Projects)**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Short Term Tender Notification (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Karnataka Housing Board invite tendersthrough Karnataka Public Procurement portal for below mentioned works.
Last date for submission of bid: 18.07.2024 up to 4.00 PM

Sl. No.	Name of work	Work Indent & IFT No.	Amount put to tender in Rs.
1	Upgradation of existing Government First Grade College Building at Hoskote, Bengaluru Rural District under SCP/TSP 2023-24 Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2024-25/BD/work_indent 250 & IFT No.22/2024-25 Date:09.07.2024	3,12,14,367/-
2	Construction of Government First Grade Boys College at Chinthamani, Chikkaballapura District under SCP/TSP 2022-23 & 2023-24 Scheme.	Tender Reference Number: KHB/2024-25/BD/work_indent 251 & IFT No.24/2024-25 Date:09.07.2024	7,98,40,905/-

For further information, contact below mentioned office address **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No. 080-22273511/080-22100077, website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/862 /AKAR/2024-25 — **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

HUBBALLI-DHARWAD BRTS COMPANY LTD.
(Government of Karnataka)
Phone No: 0836-2222007/2322700 e-mail:hdbrtsprojectcell@gmail.com
CIN: U60200KA2012SGC063887
Tender No:HDBRTS/2024-25/SE0008/CALL-2 Date:11.07.2024
E-Tender notification seeking consultants for maintaining ATCS traffic signals
Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd invites consultants for Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Adaptive Traffic Signals Installed in Hubballi Dharwad BRTS Corridor. The eligibility criteria and other necessary details are available in the e-portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-homeThe interested consultants meeting eligibility criteria may participate in the e-bidding process from 11.07.2024 and the last date to submit the bid is **20.07.2024 till 16:00 HRS.**
Sd/-
General Manager(ITS & OPR)
Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS Company Ltd., Hubballi.
DIPR/Dharwad/148/2024-25/DeshpandePublicity

RASHTRIYA MILITARY SCHOOL BENGALURU
(Under Ministry of Defence)
Opp Johnson Market, Richmond Town, Bengaluru-560025, Tel: 080-25554972
E-mail: rmsbengaluru@gmail.com
Website: www.rashtriyamilitaryschools.edu.in
SUBMISSION OF TENDER FOR UNIT SHOP AT RMS BENGALURU (RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL)
1. Tender for provision of **Unit Shop** is invited from suitable contractors **(only Ex-Servicemen)** for 450 Cadets and 115 Govt employees and their families.
2. Contractor should be able to establish Unit Shop within campus. The requirement of items has been placed in School Website**(www.rashtriyamilitaryschools.edu.in)**
3. The last/ closing date of tender will be 15 days from the date of publication of the advt in News paper. For further details pl contact mobile No 9686115712 and School e-mail ID: **rmsbengaluru@gmail.com**
Principal

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSURU
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irvin Road, Mysuru - 570 001, **Ph:** +91-0821-2520512 (Off.)
Email: mmcrimysore@yahoo.com, **Website:** www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in
No. Sup/CR/179/2024-25 — **Date :** 09.07.2024
TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)
Sub : Invitation of Tender for the **Supply of Various Technicians Manpower Services to KR Hospital, Cheluvamba Hospital and PKTB & CD Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru.**
The Term Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the **supply of Various Technicians Manpower services to the K.R hospital, Cheluvamaba Hospital and PKTB & CD Hospital of this Institution.** The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11.07.2024** and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is **12.08.2024 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected.
If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced
Sd/- Director and Dean Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysuru.
DIPR/MYS/KAVITA/243/2024-25

Locked in conflict

Governors and CMs must step back from a political confrontation

In calling for a report from the State government on the action taken against two police officers, West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has escalated the conflict between Raj Bhavan and the State government. He has written to the Union government and to the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, about what he perceives as impropriety by Vineet Goyal, Kolkata City Police Commissioner, and Indira Mukherjee, a Deputy Commissioner of Police. The Governor is aggrieved that they made remarks pertaining to an investigation into a complaint of alleged sexual harassment that a Raj Bhavan employee had made against him. While the complaint has not been acted upon – as Mr. Bose enjoys immunity from proceedings under Article 361 of the Constitution – it has become a thorny issue, with the Governor believing that the police officers had flouted the rules of conduct in speaking about an investigation that cannot be instituted or continued. His consternation is also because he believes the Commissioner had stopped a group of people with grievances about post-election violence from meeting him, even though he had agreed to meet them. The Governor has also demanded a report on the action taken with regard to a woman being disrobed in public, a couple being flogged and other incidents of mob violence, undoubtedly a legitimate request.

The Governor is indeed authorised to seek information from the State government under Article 167. Whether disciplinary action involving central service officers, normally within the domain of the State governments when they are serving the State, can be initiated at the instance of the Governor or the Union government is a separate question altogether. Mr. Bose has cited circumstances surrounding the harassment complaint against him to argue that it is a "concocted allegation", "induced and facilitated" by the police. However, it may not be in anyone's interest to escalate such issues by asking for punitive action against officers. At a time when personal squabbles and institutional conflicts between Governors and Chief Ministers are on the rise, the development is likely to be seen as one more stand-off involving the politicisation of Raj Bhavan by incumbents seeking to undermine elected regimes. The two sides appear locked in perennial conflict, mirroring the antagonism between the Centre and the State. There is the usual one over grant of assent to Bills, and a recent one involves the question who should administer the oath of office to newly elected legislators. And there is a defamation suit the Governor has filed against the Chief Minister. Constitutional functionaries should pull back from the brink before they are sucked into a political rabbit hole.

Even the odd jobs

Gig workers need a comprehensive national law on their employee status

For India's gig workers, who are increasing in numbers but are perched precariously on the edge of the unregulated labour pool, the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2024, offers a welcome reprieve, but still stops short of providing them with the security of being employees. When app-based gig work was introduced a decade ago, courtesy ride-sharing and food delivery apps, the absence of the word 'employee' was actually seen as a positive; it supposedly offered a chance for 'partners' to retain their autonomy and earn good money without being locked into a contract with rigid timings. That illusion soon dissolved as incomes crashed and working hours lengthened, and the lack of a formal 'employee' status left workers at the mercy of the aggregator and all-powerful algorithms, in the absence of safety nets or governmental regulation. Despite this, the gig economy is growing. According to a NITI Aayog report, India had 77 lakh gig workers at the beginning of the decade, and by 2029-30, they are projected to account for 4.1% of income, and 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce.

A rights-based legislation, the draft Bill aims to prevent arbitrary dismissals, provide human grievance redress mechanisms, and to bring more transparency into the opaque tangle of automated monitoring and algorithm-based payments. It is a step up from the Union government's Code on Social Security, 2020. Karnataka's law also offers social security through a welfare board and fund, with contributions from the government and the aggregator, either through a cut from every transaction on the app, or as a percentage of the platform's turnover in the State. Noting that many of the firms that own these platforms report minimal profits, workers' unions have rightly demanded that the welfare fee is charged as a cess on each transaction. Sceptics note the moribund nature of other unorganised sector welfare boards, but one advantage of mandatory registration with such a board is that it will make gig workers visible in the eyes of the law. Karnataka's Congress government aims to enact the Bill in the monsoon session of the Assembly, and it must quickly formulate rules and establish the welfare board to ensure that the law is in force before the end of the year. A similar legislation in Rajasthan, enacted by the predecessor Congress government, has been effectively put into cold storage by the BJP government. At the national level, comprehensive legislation is needed not just to set minimum wages, reasonable working hours and conditions and robust social security but also to provide gig workers with the coveted status of 'employees'.

India's demographic journey of hits and misses

Paramita Majumdar

doctoral fellow in population studies at the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai

Nitin Kumar

independent researcher and a Legislative Assistant to Members of Parliament (LAMP) Fellow (2023-24), New Delhi

As we observe World Population Day on July 11, there is much to look at in India's demographic journey over the decades. It was in 1989 that the United Nations established the day after Dr. K.C. Zachariah, a renowned demographer, had proposed the concept of a 'World Population Day'. The world population had touched five billion in 1987 and challenges such as poverty, health and gender inequality were plaguing the world, developing countries in particular.

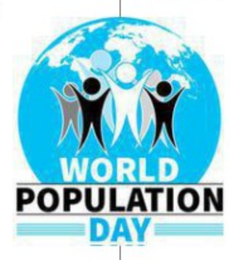
The decades of the 1960s and 1970s were scary as the global population was growing at a yearly rate of 2%. For India, there was a prediction of doom. This meant that widespread poverty, hunger and deaths were soon to follow in the next decades. However, despite the predictions, the next decades told a different story altogether. Global fertility rates declined rapidly. Due to improvements in living conditions and medical infrastructure, life expectancy increased. In India too, fertility rates began to fall since the 1970s and at present is below the replacement level. India's progress in many health parameters has been outstanding. There have been significant reductions in maternal and child mortality.

In 2015, the UN adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were soon recognised as important metrics in assessing the progress of nations. With 2030, the target year, drawing closer, India's progress in the SDGs should be understood particularly in light of its population dynamics.

India's population dynamics

Three components, namely fertility, mortality, and migration, play a pivotal role in shaping India's demographic landscape. India has made significant strides in reducing its fertility. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, India's total fertility rate (TFR) decreased from 3.4 to 2 between 1992 and 2021, dropping below the replacement level of 2.1. There has been a significant drop in the mortality rate as well. The average life expectancy of Indians has also increased over time. With this, India is experiencing a demographic shift, towards an ageing population. According to the 2011 Census, individuals aged 60 years and above constituted 8.6% of the total population. The figure is projected to rise up to 19.5% by 2050. But what really do these changing dynamics signify?

India's population dynamics is intertwined with its 'development' scenario. The reduction in fertility signifies a transition toward smaller family norms. This can reduce the proportion of the dependent population and result in a demographic dividend – a period where the working-age population is larger than the dependent population. India can harness the potential of its young workforce by creating employment. The decline in mortality and increase in life expectancy are reflections of a robust health-care system and increased living standards. The issue of population ageing, however, requires a long-term plan – focusing on geriatric care and providing social security benefits. Migration and urbanisation are also critical issues. Rapid rural to urban migration is posing a threat to the existing urban infrastructure. Among all these, gender equality also finds an important place. Women labour force participation, which is straggling, their notable absence from political representation and their unending plight within society are the silent issues which can sabotage India's path to 2030.



With six years in hand to meet the targets, India's road to 2030 crosses the path with its population dynamics. Population issues such as gender equality and socio-cultural divides cannot be ignored in the journey to achieve SDGs. It is only with a thorough understanding that India will be able to achieve a 'development' which is sustainable in its truest sense.

The country's SDG journey

'Development' in the simplest way means ensuring the basic requirements of food, shelter and health for all. 'No Poverty, Zero Hunger and Good Health' are the three most important SDGs which form the core of 'development'. India's journey from the brink of a demographic disaster to striving towards the 2030 goal of 'leaving no one behind' has seen a couple of hits and misses.

India made great leaps towards the goal of eradicating poverty. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line reduced from 48% to 10% between 1990 and 2019. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) that came into effect in 2006 played a critical role in addressing rural poverty. The Janani Suraksha Yojana of 2005 – it provides cash benefits to pregnant women – not only accentuated institutional deliveries but also saved poor families from hefty health expenditures.

In his controversial book, *The Population Bomb* (1968), Paul R. Ehrlich raised serious questions about India's ability to feed its population in the years to come. With the Green Revolution, India became self-sufficient in crop production and averted a catastrophe. The proportion of the population suffering from hunger reduced from 18.3% in 2001 to 16.6% in 2021. However, India's nutrition picture is not completely rosy. India contributes a third of the global burden of malnutrition. Though the Indian government launched the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for. Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan in 2018, it will still require a miracle to fulfil the target of 'Zero Hunger' by 2030.

Health is one sector in India where progress made has been remarkable. All the critical mortality indicators have seen steady declines. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) decreased from 384.4 in 2000 to 102.7 in 2020. The mortality rate for children under five reduced significantly post 2000s. The infant mortality rate also reduced from 66.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 25.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2021. Although India is still not near reaching the targets, it seems to be on the right track. These achievements show that there has been a significant improvement in the quality and coverage of health care.

Despite these achievements, India's road towards 2030 is not easy. According to Oxfam, the top 10% of India's population holds 77% of the national wealth. If the fruits of development are not equitably distributed and if development does not percolate to the poorest of the poor and the wealth scenario remains so skewed as it is now, 'sustainable development' can never be achieved in its truest sense. Absolute growth in GDP numbers has limited importance for a country where the top 1% holds 40% of the total wealth. Hunger and nutrition is another sector in crisis. In the Global Hunger Index (2023), India's rank was 111 out of 125 countries. In terms of nutrition, stunting, wasting and underweight among children below five years and anaemia among women pose serious challenges. India's epidemiological trajectory shows that the country has a double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCD). This is a serious challenge for India which also combats the early onset of NCDs and the rising health needs of the elderly.

What needs looking into

For India to achieve the SDGs, the changing population dynamics has to be acknowledged while forming policies. India needs to address income inequality, harness its demographic dividend by creating job opportunities for the youth of India and address changing health needs. NCDs, which incur high out-of-pocket expenditures, are catastrophic for some families. India needs a stronger safety net to save these families from slipping into utter poverty. The nutrition scenario should be set right by strengthening programmes. This will require an increase in budgetary allocation for the health and nutrition sectors. Another, but often missed, paradigm of this entire development discussion is gender equality. A gender equal approach and empowerment of vulnerable women can solve most issues and propel India's progress in the SDGs.

India still has a long journey to cover in order to meet all the targets of the SDGs. This will require multi-sectoral collaboration and political will. India's progress in SDGs is directly proportional to the well-being of its population and the route to progress lies in a better understanding of its population dynamics and addressing the issues.

From pulling back from the brink of a demographic disaster to striving to reach the target year of 2030 for the Sustainable Development Goals, there is much to look at in the country

A case of people versus population

S. Ramasundaram

a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and a United States-trained demographer

July 11 has been observed as World Population Day since 1989 after the global population crossed the five billion mark. The population is now estimated to be 8.1 billion, with India as the most populous nation (1.44 billion), which is slightly more than China's.

This writer wrote the article, "Myths about Population Growth", which was published in this daily on World Population Day ('World Population Day' page, July 11, 1997) – when India crossed the 100 crore mark. The article showed how the doomsday predictions of Malthus, 200 years ago, or that of his present-day followers in the West, that population growth would overtake food production, never came true and never will in the future. The aim of this article is to analyse what has changed in 27 years.

Changes in India

Let us look at some of the major socio-economic changes in India over 27 years.

First, the population has grown 44% from 100 crore to 144 crore, but the annual growth rate of the population has fallen sharply – from nearly 2% to below 1%. This is because the number of births per woman (total fertility rate or TFR) has fallen from 3.4 to 2, just below the "replacement level" of 2.1.

Second, the per capita GDP of Indians grew six times, from $400 to $2,400. The average life span of an Indian has increased from 61 years to 70 years.

Third, Indians living below the multi-dimensional poverty line decreased from 43% to 11%. However, 11% of 144 crore is still a very large number of 16 crore people.

The 16 crore people below the poverty line are not distributed evenly across the country. Just four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh: (5.4 crore out of 23.6 crore), Bihar (4.2 crore out of 12.7 crore), Madhya Pradesh (2.52 crore out of 8.7 crore) and Jharkhand (1.1 crore out of 4 crore) account for 83% of the national total of people below the poverty line, while accounting for only 34 % of India's total population. How to address this persisting disparity in socio-economic growth and poverty reduction among Indian States is among the top priorities of the central and State governments and beyond the scope of this article.

Impact of climate change

But a far more serious issue facing the people of India is the adverse effects of climate change which do not recognise national boundaries. This is where the population versus people dichotomy becomes apparent. The debate on historical emissions (advanced by developing countries) versus current emissions (advanced by the developed world) is closely linked to the population versus people divergence. This is because the per capita consumption of both natural resources and manufactured products directly correlates with the per capita income of the people.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries with a per capita income of $40,000 and a total population of 1.39 billion, together produce and consume $55.6 trillion worth of natural resources and manufactured goods. In comparison, India, with a per capita GDP of $2,400 and a population of 1.44 billion, produces and consumes just $3.5 trillion worth of natural resources and manufactured goods. In other words, the OECD countries with a population slightly less than that of India consume nearly 16 times of what the whole of India consumes. This has been the major cause of global warming over the past few decades, resulting in unpredictable weather changes. In turn this has adversely affected the poor in developing nations more severely than people in developed nations with much better housing and civic infrastructure.

With 11% of its people still below the poverty line, India will continue to accord priority to economic growth over climate change mitigation measures, and rightly so. That responsibility lies majorly with the OECD countries, and now increasingly with China. Successive Indian governments have negotiated hard at global forums on India's right to grow economically to alleviate poverty as early as possible.

Global South and growth

The Narendra Modi government has articulated this even more forcefully by expanding the definition of the Circular Economy framework in the G-20 New Delhi Declaration of September 2023: "In order to endeavour to decouple our economic growth from environmental degradation and enhance sustainable consumption and production, including primary resource consumption while supporting economic growth, we acknowledge the critical role played by circular economy, extended producer responsibility and resource efficiency in achieving sustainable development".

This is an explicit statement of intent to maintain the economic growth of the Global South nations, a term used for all developing nations as a group. India is looked upon by the nations of the Global South in their efforts to maintain economic growth in their respective nations as the first priority, followed by measures to achieve net zero. India has fixed the year 2070 to achieve this, compared to the European Union's target of reaching net zero by 2050. But India would strive for zero poverty within the next decade.

The next few decades will see developing nations focusing on eradicating persistent poverty among their people rather than responding to population growth doomsday "experts" who have so far not been proved right. As Tamil poet C. Subramania Bharati said nearly 100 years ago, "*Thani oruvanukku unavillai enil, inda jagatthinai azhithiduvom* (even if one person does not have food to eat, we will destroy the world") So, it is the welfare of average citizen which matters and not population numbers at the macro level.

The views expressed are personal

It is the welfare of the average citizen which matters and not macro-level population numbers

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Russia visit

The successful visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Moscow bolsters the fact that Russia still remains India's robust, special and privileged strategic partner. It would be prudent and responsible if India strives to defuse the ongoing war in Ukraine by bringing the two sides to the negotiation table by using its acclaimed global image.

M. Rishidev,
Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

Can the visit be called a success from a foreign policy angle? Is foreign policy only about economic interest? Is there no space for humanitarian and just concerns? India should have called a spade a spade, which requires moral courage. India failed to play a lead role in strongly calling for the war to end. The world was watching the visit very closely.

S.V. Venkatakrishnan,
San Jose, California, U.S.

Disease threats

It is of great concern that the spectrum of microbial threats is widening. In the past two decades, India has seen a rise in outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging viral, bacterial, and other infectious diseases. A study in a top scientific journal says that over half of known pathogenic diseases can be aggravated by climate change.

Dr. Biju C. Mathew,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

A pathway for the most populous nation

S. Irudaya Rajan
is Chair and Honorary Visiting Professor at the International Institute of Migration and Development, Kerala

U.S. Mishra
is Honorary Visiting Professor at the International Institute of Migration and Development Kerala

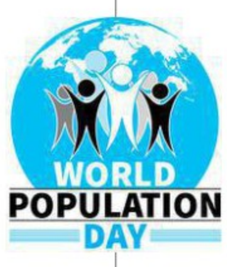
The world population is expected to touch 8.5 billion by the end of this decade. While Asia is expected to be overpopulated, Europe, it is said, will be underpopulated. Due to falling fertility levels and rising longevity, the future population could have a higher number and share of older people. Thus, the two significant transformations are expected to be an imbalanced distribution of the population across regions and a skewed age structure.

The population today is more centred in urban areas. By 2030, it is estimated that two-third of the people will inhabit urban spaces, which will put a strain on infrastructure and amenities. This, in turn, could compromise the quality of life of urban citizens.

Women's health and rights

The theme of this world population day is 'women's sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights', marking the 30th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). This gives us an opportunity to accelerate efforts to realise the ICPD's programme of action. While there has been reasonable progress in three decades – women have greater access to modern contraceptives today and maternal deaths have declined considerably since 2000 – there are still unequal results across regions. It is unacceptable that each day, 800 women die globally from preventable causes relating to pregnancy and child birth. A disproportionate share of these deaths occur in developing countries. Reduced maternal mortality levels need to be associated with reduced fertility levels because lower fertility reduces exposure to maternity. However, decline in fertility levels is also associated with delayed childbearing among women.

World population day has obvious significance for India. The most populated country in the world with a median age of 28 years could help balance the population-deficit regions. Lowering fertility levels and rising longevity also transforms the size and composition of households. There will soon be an uneven distribution of children and the elderly within households, which will have implications for inequality, an important concern for India. For instance, the Kerala Migration Survey 2023 reports that 42% of households have no elderly people whereas 37% of households have one elderly person, 20% have two, and 1% have three elderly people.



The accommodation of elderly people and children is uneven across rich and poor households. This gives rise to a lower dependency burden (the ratio of dependent young and old to the population of working age) in rich households compared with poorer ones. In addition, the care burden in households is also shaped by the presence of children and the elderly. Due to societal stereotypes, the burden of care falls on women. This leaves women with less time to participate in paid work.

Migration trends

The distribution of the population in the future will continue to be shaped by migration. In recent decades, we have seen greater mobility of people. People often migrate due to poor development and infrastructure in their regions. A study estimates that 60 crore Indians migrate within the country annually, and 2 crore migrate abroad. Given the potential of India's future urbanisation, it is important to encourage the emergence of new cities in order to release pressure on existing mega cities. These need to have the same kinds of infrastructure and public amenities as the mega cities. We talk about smart cities, but are Indian cities 'smart'?

It is clear that cities are the drivers of the global economy. At present, 600 urban centres drive 60% of the world's GDP. An assessment of global cities by Oxford Economics resulted in the Global Cities Index, which ranked the top cities in the world based on five categories: economics, human capital, quality of life, environment and governance. This exercise evaluates the urban quality of life, which needs to be studied so that the trends of rapid urbanisation and growing migration can be understood.

Unfortunately, not a single Indian city appears in the top 50 ranking of world cities. The best-ranking Indian city is Delhi, which occupies the 350th position out of 1,000 cities in the world. This poor performance is due to India's poor environment and quality of life, which undoubtedly threaten the sustainability of its cities. To make India's urban spaces livable, we need to address all these challenges.

It is also noteworthy that the most populous country of the world does not have a realistic count of its population. Most projections of India's population are based on decades-old data. Until India conducts its census, we will only have estimates. It is important to know the exact count and the demographic make up so that we can draft better policies.

World population day is significant for India since we have a global footprint. Despite more countries adopting stringent immigration policies, more Indians will continue to emigrate, at least in the near future. At the same time, India needs to seriously prepare its workforce for the global labour market. It is said that the 21st century belongs to India. But this statement will be validated only if India prepares its workforce to keep up with the evolving global needs. The world should count on us as much as we count on ourselves.

India needs to seriously prepare its workforce for the global labour market

The Congress's many woes in Karnataka

The party is bogged down by in-fighting and corruption charges

STATE OF PLAY

Nagesh Prabhu
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The Congress's below-par performance in the Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka has highlighted the cracks in the party. There has been political shadow boxing between two factions – one supporting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and the other, his deputy D.K. Shivakumar – with supporters of each leader issuing statements to undermine the other. The situation came to a head on June 27 when a Vokkaliga seer, Chandrashekaranatha Swami, requested Mr. Siddaramaiah to give up the Chief Minister's post to Mr. Shivakumar.

The Congress fought the Lok Sabha elections in unity, banking on its five 'guarantees'. However, it put up a poor show, particularly in the Old Mysore region, which is often described as the 'Vokkaliga belt' owing to the electoral dominance of the Vokkaliga community to which Mr. Shivakumar belongs. This gave rise to the old demand of appointing more deputy chief ministers. The Congress had swept this region in the 2023 Assembly polls.

The Chief Minister's loyalists, particularly Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna, renewed the demand for the appointment of three deputy chief ministers representing the Veerashaiva-Lingayat, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, and minority communities to ensure more electoral support to the party. Given that the party high command had announced in 2023 that Mr. Shivakumar, who holds the post of Congress State chief, would be replaced after the Lok Sabha elections, Mr.

Rajanna has also said that a new Congress State chief should be appointed. Other senior leaders, such as Home Minister G. Parameshwara, see nothing wrong in this demand based on the 'one person, one post' principle, as Mr. Shivakumar holds multiple portfolios.

The call for more deputy chief ministers was made after the 2023 Assembly results too. A section of Congress leaders believe that it is part of a strategy by Mr. Siddaramaiah's loyalists to keep Mr. Shivakumar in check amid talks that he might seek the Chief Minister's post after 30 months of this government's tenure. They also say that the demand is being made to counter Mr. Shivakumar's influence, both in the government and in the party. Party leaders have not ruled out a mid-term reshuffle in the government.

In the general elections, the Congress won nine out of 28 seats against one seat in 2019. It fell short of expectations that it would win at least 15 seats. The party's vote share increased to 45.43% from 31.88%. A survey of the results in each Assembly constituency shows that more than a dozen ministers were unable to provide leads for the party's candidates. Mr. Shivakumar suffered a major setback when his brother D.K. Suresh was defeated in Bengaluru Rural.

This is why the ministers not only renewed their demand for more deputy chief ministers, but also for the replacement of Shivakumar as Congress State chief. The Vokkaliga seer's request to Mr. Siddaramaiah intensified the war of words between the loyalists of the two leaders. After his statement, Veerashaiva-Lingayat seers urged the party to consider leaders from their community for the top post or for the post of deputy chief minister in the event of a change of guard. Meanwhile, AHINDA, an outfit representing minorities, backward classes, and Dalits, warned of a State-wide agitation against any move to replace Mr. Siddaramaiah, who belongs to the Other Backward Classes community.

In the midst of this leadership struggle, the Congress is fighting other battles too. The party which came to power levelling corruption charges against the Bharatiya Janata Party is now facing allegations of fraud. Congress Minister B. Nagendra was forced to resign for allegedly swindling funds from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation. There have also been allegations of irregularities in the Mysuru Urban Development Authority scheme. In this case, allotments made to Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife have come under the scanner. Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy has insinuated that the scam was exposed by "someone who is eyeing the Chief Minister's post."

In this context, the upcoming by-elections to three Assembly constituencies and the elections to urban and local bodies will be an acid test for the Congress. Providing a clean administration and keeping the party and government united will be the party's major challenges.

Extreme events in the capital

With the wettest-ever June day and hottest-ever May day, an unusual spate of maximal weather has roiled Delhi

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

In the past two months, Delhi has witnessed two extreme weather events: days of unrelenting heat in May followed by heavy rains in June. The capital also experienced the hottest-ever nights in June and year-round pollution, making it a tough year.

On June 28, the much-awaited arrival of the south-west monsoon turned into a nightmare when houses and streets got flooded. At least five people lost their lives, including a taxi driver who died when a canopy at the airport collapsed on him. According to the India Meteorological Department's gridded data, the city received the highest-ever rainfall for a day in June (150.7 mm) since 1951 **(Chart 1)**. The previous high for a day in June was 97.3 mm of rainfall – over 50mm lower than the latest record – which occurred on June 30, 1981.

Just a month earlier, Delhi was sweltering under record-breaking heat. A report by a non-profit organisation, Centre for Holistic Development, stated that 192 homeless people died due to a heatwave in the capital (June 11-19). In May and June this year, for 38 consecutive days, the city's maximum temperatures crossed the 40°C mark. On May 28, Delhi recorded a maximum temperature of 47.5°C, the highest-ever for a day in May in the capital since 1951 **(Chart 2)**. The second-highest (47.3°C) was recorded on May 29, the next day.

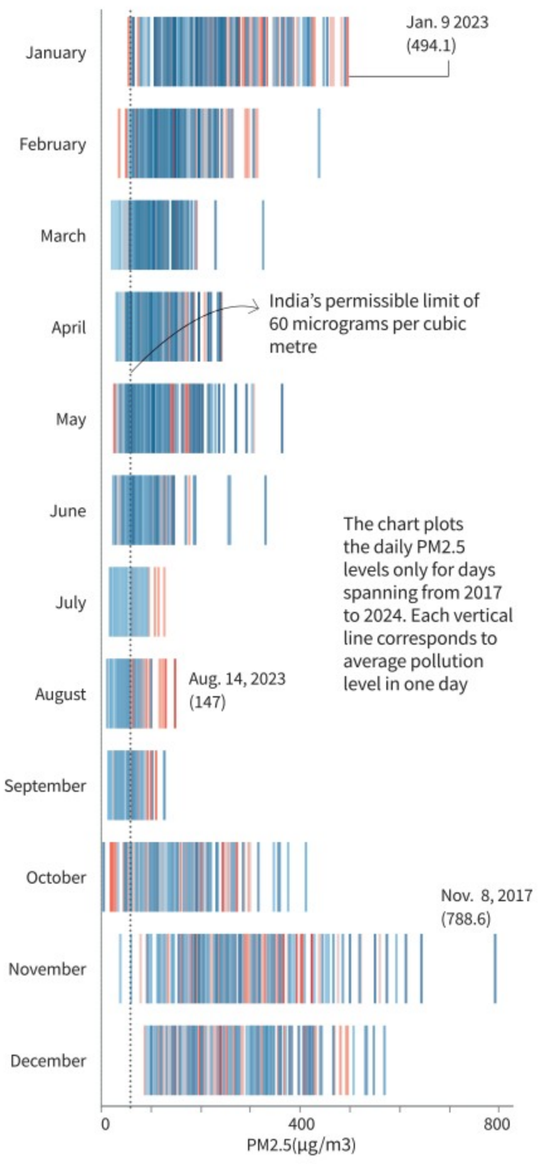
Nights did not provide relief either. The average minimum temperature for June this year was 29.6°C, the highest for any month since 1951 **(Chart 3).**

Moreover, PM2.5 levels above India's permissible limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre were recorded on nearly all the days of November, December, and January **(Chart 4).** This was the case during many days of August too, when pollution is otherwise low.

Sweltering heat, torrential rains

The charts are based on data sourced from the India Meteorological Department's gridded data. Data for PM 2.5 levels was sourced from the Central Pollution Control Board

Chart 4: The chart shows average daily PM2.5 levels recorded in Anand Vihar station. The grey dotted line indicates India's permissible limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre



Almost all the days in November, December and January have PM2.5 levels above the Indian standard of 60 µg/m3

Chart 1: The chart shows the daily rainfall received by Delhi on every June day since 1951. Each dot corresponds to rainfall recorded in each June day between 1951 and 2024

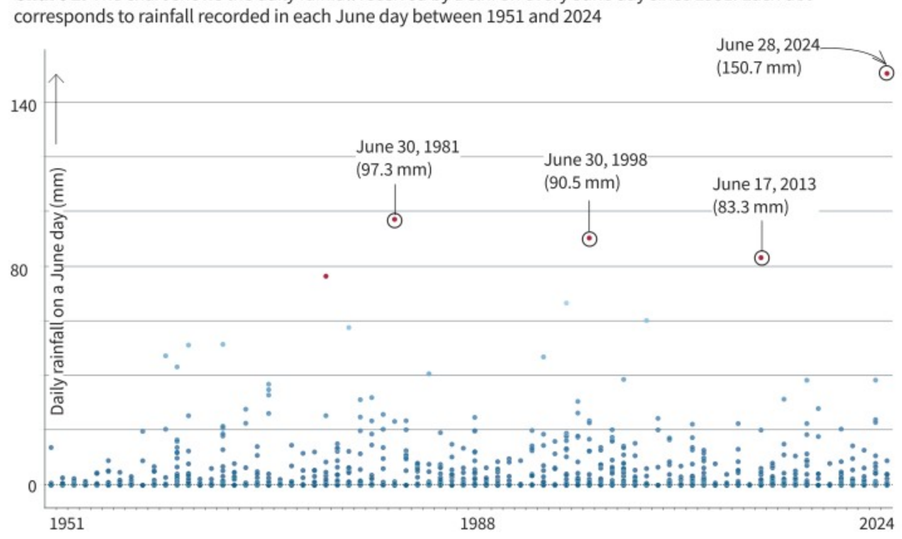


Chart 2: The chart shows the daily maximum temperature in Delhi on every May day since 1951. Each dot corresponds to maximum temperature recorded in each May day between 1951 and 2024

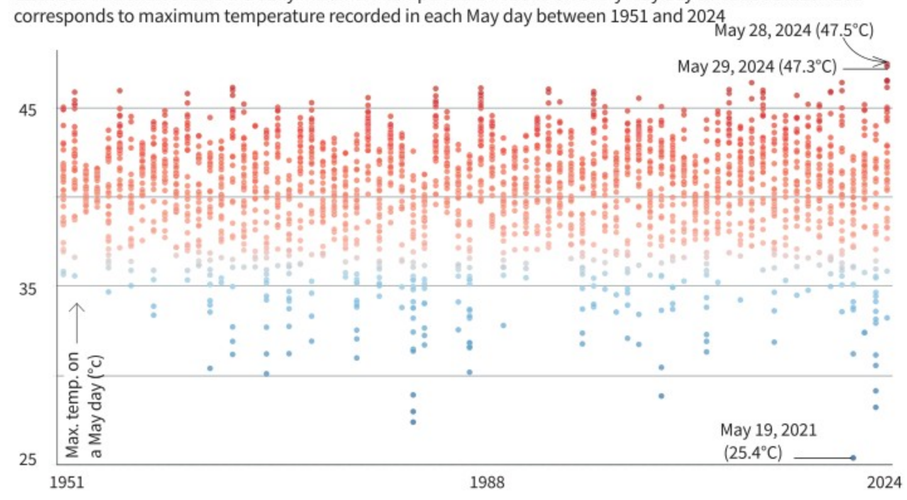
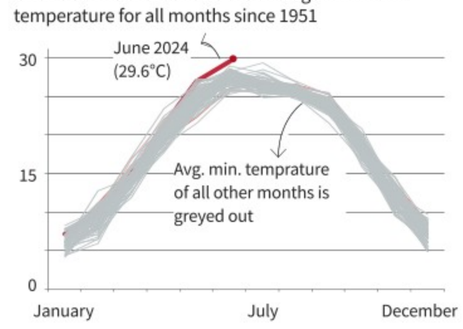


Chart 3: The chart shows the average minimum temperature for all months since 1951



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 11, 1974

Kerala's concern over slow rice movement into State

Cochin, July 10: The rationing system in Kerala will collapse unless the Central Government rushes rice supplies to the State on an "emergency footing", it is feared.

The Food Corporation of India godowns in the State now contain hardly three weeks' supplies. The rice arrivals are "unsatisfactory and dwindling". Normally, it takes at least two weeks for foodgrains released by the FCI to reach the retail shops via the wholesalers.

Reliable sources said that rice movement in the State had been slow for nearly a month now. Even after the withdrawal of the Railway strike rice movement had not picked up. The State Government had been constantly urging the Union Government to help the State in meeting its ration committee, but the Centre's replies "have been unhelpful, unimaginative and routine."

The Union Government was committed to supply 80,000 tonnes of rice to Kerala per month, and if the commitment was to be fulfilled, the daily arrivals should average 2,500 tonnes. Actually however just 1,000 tonnes a day were being received in the State for some weeks now. Frantic messages sent to the Centre only brought forth replies that the Southern Railway authorities were being alerted to move supplies. Unless about 5,000 tonnes of foodgrains arrived in the State daily, the rationing system might break down.

It was further pointed out that if unfortunately the rationing system broke down the consequences would be terrible and the entire responsibiilty for it would lie with the Union Government.

With the lean months ahead additional quantities of foodgrains were required by the State but even normal supplies were not available now, the sources pointed out.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 11, 1924

Taxi fares in Bombay

Bombay, July 10: It is proposed to introduce revised taxi fares in Bombay in August. The rate for first class taxis will be Rs 8 for the first four-fifths of a mile instead of Rs 10 as at present, and for second class vehicles the rate will remain at Rs 8 per mile. The rates for subsequent distances will be unaltered.

From Page One

Bengal suit against CBI probes maintainable: SC

The judgment noted that the Union government was "vitally concerned" with the CBI, saying that this was plainly evident from the fact that only offences notified by the Centre could be investigated by the CBI under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, the statute which governs the premier probe agency.

"Under Section 4 of the DSPE Act, except the offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the superintendence of the DSPE in all other matters would vest with the Central government," Justice Gavai noted.

Justice Gavai, however, clarified that these observations were only made to meet the preliminary objections raised by the Union government. They will have no bearing on the merits of the suit.

The Bench set August 13 as the date for hearing framing issues with regard to West Bengal's suit.

The Centre, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, had earlier contended that the CBI too could not be made a defendant in the suit as the agency was not the 'Government of India'. Original suits filed directly in the Supreme Court under Article 131 of the Constitution exclusively deal with disputes involving the Union and the States, Mr. Mehta had reasoned.

The law officer had pressed the court to dismiss the West Bengal suit on these preliminary grounds without going into its merits. However, the Bench on Wednesday said the suit raised "serious questions concerning the wider ramifications of federalism".

West Bengal, represented by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, had made specific contentions that the CBI had acted on the Centre's directions.

'Divorced Muslim women entitled to maintenance'

Mohammad Abdul Samad, in his appeal, said his wife had to exclusively take recourse under the 1986 Act rather than Section 125 Cr.PC. He had argued that the 1986 Act was a special law and overrode the Cr.PC provision. He contended that a divorced Muslim woman's application for maintenance under Section 125 was not maintainable.

Besides, the court pointed out that Section 3 of the 1986 Act requires a man to provide for a "reasonable and fair provision of maintenance" to his divorced Muslim wife only during the *iddat* period. Once the *iddat* period expires, the personal law obligation to maintain the divorced Muslim woman ceases.

On the other hand, Section 125 mandates a husband to provide monthly maintenance to his divorced wife, irrespective of her faith. "Any divorced wife who has not remarried is entitled to maintenance by her ex-husband who has sufficient means but has neglected or refused to maintain her," Justice Nagarathna pointed out.

Maintenance for children

Further, the 1986 Act holds a Muslim man liable to pay his divorced wife maintenance for their children for only a period of two years from birth. Section 125 requires a husband to pay for their children till they attain the age of majority. Again, there is no upper limit fixed for payment of maintenance under Section 125, making it a more beneficial provision compared to the 1986 law.

Justice Masih, in his opinion, said Section 125 manifested the constitutional commitment towards special measures to ensure a life of dignity for women at all stages of their lives, irrespective of their faith.

Harmonious interpretation

He observed that Section 125 and the 1986 Act were not at loggerheads with each other. The 1986 Act did not extinguish the right of a divorced Muslim woman, who is unable to maintain herself, to seek maintenance under Section 125. The choice is left to the Muslim woman to apply for maintenance either under Section 125 or the 1986 Act. If a Muslim woman is unable to maintain herself, she could apply for maintenance under Section 125. If, on the other hand, she is able to take care of herself financially, she could very well seek maintenance under the 1986 Act till the expiry of the *iddat* period. Courts have to give both laws a harmonious and purposive interpretation, Justice Masih observed.

Caste discrimination in prisons must end: CJI

Earlier, in January, the court had found that prison manuals in more than 10 States, including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, continued to have provisions that sanctioned discrimination and forced labour on the grounds of caste in prisons.

Mr. Muralidhar submitted that centuries of caste discrimination continued unabated inside prisons.

Labour was segregated on the basis of caste. Modern manuals promoting reforms in prisons seemed not to have entered the prison walls, Mr. Muralidhar noted.

"Dalits even have a separate ward in prisons... Despite changes in the prison manuals, caste discrimination continues. These provisions in the prison manuals of the States should be repealed," the senior lawyer had submitted.

ITBP seizes 108 kg of gold biscuits near China border

It is the first time that an alleged gold smuggling racket has been exposed in the area; two people were intercepted by an ITBP team that was on a patrol in the border areas in eastern Ladakh

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) arrested two men near the China border in eastern Ladakh on Tuesday for allegedly smuggling 108 kg of gold biscuits from China. While smuggling of smaller items was common, it is the first time that an alleged gold smuggling racket has been exposed in the area with the arrest of two local persons. Another person has been detained, an ITBP official said.

The accused were intercepted by an ITBP team that was on a long-range patrol in the border areas in the Southern Sub-Sector (SSS) in eastern Ladakh to check infiltration and smuggling, amid specific inputs of smuggling in the area near Sirigaple, Ladakh.

An operation codenamed *Jazba* was launched on July 7 and 8 from either directions of the SSS, which is a defined border and not unmarked as in other areas of eastern Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) where Indian and Chinese troops have been in a stand-off since May 2020.

Large haul: The gold biscuits were seized by the ITBP during a long-range patrol in eastern Ladakh on Wednesday. ANI

A team headed by Deputy Commandant Deepak Bhatt intercepted two persons with mules within one kilometre of the China border in the SSS comprising the general areas of Chismule, Narbula Top, Zakle and Zakla. "On being stopped, the suspects tried to run away but the patrol party chased them and reached the area where they had pitched tents. Initially, the suspects said they are collecting medicinal plants, but later patrol party found huge quantity of gold and other items," said Clay Khongsai, Inspector-General, ITBP. He added that this was the largest haul of gold ever by the ITBP.

The suspects were identified as Tsering Chamba, 69, and Tenzin Targy, 40, residents of Hanle. The ITBP recovered a pair of binoculars, food items such as cake and milk from China, knives, mobile phones, and two ponies other than the 108 pieces of gold biscuits weighing 1 kg each with "Gulf Gold Refinery" embossed on them.

Curb smuggling

The ITBP has been authorised by the Union Home Ministry to carry out search and seizures. The ITBP Act allows the force to exercise the powers of the Customs Department on the border to keep a check on smuggling.

Joint interrogation of the suspects will be carried out by the police, the Intelligence Bureau, the Customs Department, and the ITBP. The seized items and the suspects have been handed over to the Customs Department for further questioning.

Apple alerts users of being targeted by Pegasus-like spyware

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At least two persons in India on Wednesday reported receiving a Pegasus-like alert from Apple on their iPhones. The alerts, sent out on Tuesday night, warned them that they had been targeted by a "mercenary" attack. Apple previously called these attacks "state-backed", but changed this in April. Such spyware allows attackers to sift through personal devices of targets, allowing them to view messages, photos, and tap into microphone and camera feeds in real time.

Iltija Mufti, political adviser and daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, reported receiving the alert. So did Pushparaj Deshpande, founder of the Samruddha Bharat Foundation, which, according to its website, works to "forge progressive coalitions". Ms. Mufti and Mr. Deshpande told *The Hindu* that their phones were updated, and that they would soon get their devices forensically examined.

An Apple spokesperson in India did not have an immediate comment to offer on the alerts. While the alert did not say that the attack was state-based, it named the Pegasus spyware as an example.

Pegasus, a suite of snooping tools developed by the Israeli NSO Group Technologies, is only sold to governments. The Union government never confirmed or denied purchasing and using the Pegasus hardware and refused to participate in a Supreme Court-ordered investigation into the use of the spyware.

Previous instances

This is the first time in months that such spyware alerts have been issued by Apple. The last time similar cases were documented was in October 2023, when Apple devices belonging to Siddharth Varadarajan, founding editor of *The Wire*, and Anand Mangnale, South Asia editor at the Organised Crime and Corruption Report Project, received such alerts.

18 killed, 21 injured as bus from Bihar rams milk tanker on Expressway in Unnao district

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

At least 18 people were killed and 21 injured when a bus rammed a milk tanker from behind near Garha village on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh around 5.30 a.m. on Wednesday, the police said. The force of the impact was such that the passengers were flung out of the bus.

Local officials said the bus was carrying mostly migrant workers and their families from Sheohar and East Champaran in Bihar to Delhi. The injured have been rushed to nearby government hospitals. Three of them in a critical condition have been shifted to Lucknow. District officials rushed to the site to extricate victims and transport the injured to hospitals.

Urgent care: A patient injured in bus accident being treated at a hospital in Unnao on Wednesday. PTI

The district administration issued helpline numbers – 0515-2970767, 9651432703, 9454417447, 8887713617, 8081211289 – for better coordination with victims' families.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the incident as extremely painful. "The road accident in Unnao is extremely painful. My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. The local administration is engaged in helping the victims in every possible way," he said.

"The loss of life in a road accident in Unnao district is extremely sad and heartwrenching. My condolences are with the bereaved families. District administration officials have been instructed to reach the spot and speed up the relief work. I pray to Lord Shri Ram to give a place to the departed souls" Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath posted on X.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav dubbed the incident negligence of the BJP government. "It is a matter of investigation that: Despite there being a dedicated parking zone on the expressway, why was a vehicle parked on the middle of the road; how did the monitoring of the parked vehicle go wrong despite the presence of CCTV cameras," Mr. Yadav asked in a post on X.

Bihar's first transgender sub-inspectors make history

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

In a first, three transgender persons cleared the Bihar Police Subordinate Services Commission (BPSSC) exam to become police sub-inspectors.

Earlier, following a Patna High Court judgment in 2021, the State government had asked the BPSSC to recruit transgender people into police services. The State Home Department had also filed an affidavit before a two-member Bench of the court, saying the government would post a sub-inspector and four constables from third gender category in every district of the State.

Of the three new recruits, Manvi Madhu Kashyap is a transwoman while Rohit Jha and Bunty Kumar are transmen.

Duty hours of loco pilots monitored, and rest provided after trips: Railway Minister

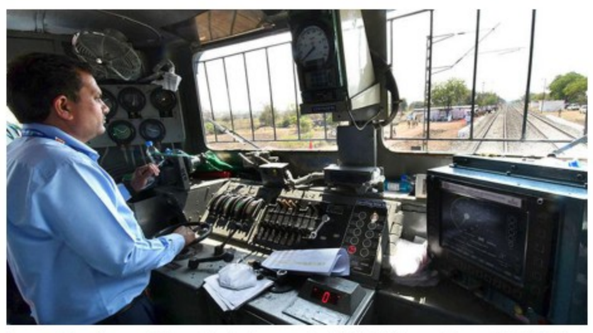
Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday that there had been a lot of theatrics by the Opposition parties to demotivate train loco pilots.

"Duty hours of loco pilots are carefully monitored, and rest is provided meticulously after trips. The average duty hours are less than eight hours in June. Only under exigencies, the trip duration exceeds prescribed hours," Mr. Vaishnaw said on X.

Mr. Vaishnaw's clarifications come following Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi's interaction with loco pilots, weeks after the Kanchenjunga Express train accident in West Bengal claimed lives of at least 10 persons.

Mr. Gandhi stated earlier on X that many loco pilots had complained about long working hours and double duty.



According to an RTI reply, between July 7, 2021 and June 17, 2024, 131 train accidents took place, of which 92 were derailments.

Safety concerns have been raised after major train accidents such as those involving the Kanchenjunga Express, and the Balasore train accident last year, which claimed over 290 lives.

According to an RTI reply, between July 7, 2021 and June 17, 2024, 131 train accidents took place, of which 92 were derailments. "In these derailments, 64 were passenger-carrying trains and 28 were goods trains," the reply to the RTI plea filed by Maharashtra-based activist Ajoy Bose stated.

Mr. Vaishnaw said loco pilots operated train locomotives from loco cabs. "Before 2014, cabs were in a bad shape. Now, cabs have been improved with ergonomic seats and more than 7,000 loco cabs are air-conditioned."

He said that off-duty resting facilities of loco pilots had been improved. The Minister said a major drive for recruitment was completed and 34,000 running staff had been recruited.

Ground handlers at airports will now have to obtain safety clearance from the DGCA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ground handling service providers at airports that perform activities such as boarding passengers, loading cargo, marshalling aircraft on the apron, and check-in services will now be required to obtain a safety clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), according to the new regulations framed by it.

The DGCA has published a new set of rules, also known as Civil Aviation Requirement, prescribing the framework for safe operations by service providers after a consultation process with various stakeholders.

Service providers will now have to obtain a safety clearance from the DGCA within six months.

Ground handling agencies will also have to develop, implement and maintain a training programme for its personnel and ensure they complete initial and on-the-job training following which they must each be issued a certificate of competency.

The DGCA's new set of rules, known as Civil Aviation Requirement, prescribes framework for safe operations by service providers. PTI

Recurrent training will also have to be conducted within a period of three years.

These agencies will have to maintain training records and make them available for review by the DGCA.

Calling for some relaxation in the timeline for implementation, Celebi Aviation's India CEO Murali Ramachandran welcomed the move.

Ground handling safety events can cause injuries and deaths, and result in operational delays as well as damage to aircraft and equipment.

According to the International Air Transport Association, which represents over 300 airlines globally, as many as 40% of ground damage incidents involve cargo loaders, passenger stairs and passenger boarding bridges.

BJP lauds SC verdict, says it ended 'threat' to the Constitution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It says said verdict should be seen in light of restoration of equal rights rather than of religion

The BJP on Wednesday praised the Supreme Court verdict which declared that a divorced Muslim woman was entitled to maintenance from her husband under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

Addressing a press conference at the BJP's national headquarters, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the order had "ended" a threat to the Constitution by the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, passed by a Congress government in the past.

"Whenever the Congress has been in power, the Constitution was under threat. It was under the Rajiv Gandhi government that a decision was taken which gave primacy to *Sharia* over the Constitution. The prestige of the Constitution which was crushed during the Congress government has been restored by this order. The verdict has ended one of the big threats posed to the Constitution," he said.

In what is popularly known as the *Shah Bano* case, the Supreme Court in 1985 had allowed her plea for alimony from her husband after she was divorced. However, the then Congress government passed a law in Parliament to overrule the verdict following protests from conservative Muslim groups.

Mr. Trivedi said the verdict should be seen in light of the restoration of equal rights rather than of religion. "There is no secular state where *Sharia* provisions such as *halala*, triple talaq and Haj subsidy were allowed and the then government by enacting a law had turned India into a partial Islamic state," he claimed.

Mr. Trivedi also lauded the fact that Russia's highest state award, Order of St Andrew the Apostle, was conferred on Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Russian President Vladimir Putin during his recent visit.

Taking a swipe at the Opposition parties, who have questioned Mr. Modi over foreign affairs issues, including the Ukraine war, he said they had the habit of casting doubts on every auspicious occasion.

SC judge says men should share funds to empower their homemaker wives

Justice Nagarathna says empowerment of 'vulnerable wife' will make her more secure in family; she made the observations in a separate opinion upholding Muslim women's right to maintenance

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Supreme Court, in a judgment on Wednesday, said men should share their financial resources with their 'homemaker' wives who did not have an independent source of income, to empower them.

"An Indian married man must become conscious of the fact that he would have to financially empower and provide for his wife, who does not have an independent source of income, by making available financial resources particularly towards her personal needs; in other words, giving access to his financial resources," Justice Nagarathna observed in a separate opinion upholding a divorced Muslim women's right to maintenance under a secular Section 125 of the erstwhile Code of Criminal Procedure.

> An Indian married man must become conscious of the fact that he will have to financially empower and provide for his wife, who does not have an independent source of income
>
> **JUSTICE B.V. NAGARATHNA**
> Supreme Court Judge

Justice Nagarathna said such "financial empowerment" of a "vulnerable wife" would make her more secure in the family.

"Those Indian married men who are conscious of this aspect and who make available their financial resources for their spouse towards their personal expenses, apart from household expenditure, possibly by having a joint bank account or via an ATM card, must be acknowledged," the Supreme Court judge wrote.

Draws a distinction

She drew a distinction between financially independent or employed married women and those who remain at home without even an avenue to meet their personal expenses.

"It is well-known that such an Indian homemaker tries to save as much money as possible from the monthly household budget, not only to augment the financial resources of the family but possibly to also save a small portion for her personal expenses. Such a practice is followed in order to avoid making a request to the husband or his family for her personal expenses," Justice Nagarathna observed.

Most married men in India do not even realise the predicament of their 'homemaker' wives, whose request for expenses may be bluntly turned down by them or their family. Some husbands are not conscious of the fact that the wife who has no independent source of finance is dependent on them not only emotionally but also financially, the judge said.

"On the other hand, a wife who is referred to as a homemaker is working throughout the day for the welfare of the family without expecting anything in return except possibly love and affection, a sense of comfort and respect from her husband and his family which are towards her emotional security. This may also be lacking in certain households," Justice Nagarathna said.

Justice Nagarathna also referred to the vulnerability of a married woman with regard to the "security of residence" in her matrimonial home.

She concluded that only a strong Indian family and society would make a stronger nation.

INBRIEF

SIT report on stampede seems politically motivated: BSP chief

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Wednesday alleged that the SIT report presented on the Hathras stampede seems politically motivated. She said the silent approach towards chief organiser Narayan Sakar Hari (Bhole Baba) in the report was a cause for concern and it seemed that an attempt had been made to give him a clean chit. "The tragic death of 121 innocent people, including women and children, in the stampede in Hathras district is a living proof of government negligence. The government must pay attention so that such incidents do not reoccur," she said in a X post.

Mumbai hit-and-run accused remanded in police custody

The prime accused in the Mumbai hit-and-run case, Mihir Shah, was on Wednesday remanded in police custody by a court here till July 16. Mr. Mihir Shah was arrested on Tuesday after being on the run for over 72 hours. In a related development, his father Rajesh Shah was removed as deputy leader of the Shiv Sena's Palghar district unit, on the instructions of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. Mr. Mihir was produced in a court on Wednesday in the July 7 hit-and-run case. Kaveri Nakhawa was killed and her husband, Pradeep Nakhawa, injured when the car driven by Mr. Mihir, allegedly under influence of alcohol, hit their two-wheeler at Worli.

Assembly bypolls held in 13 seats; violence in Bengal, Uttarakhand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amarwara in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest voter turnout of 78.71% in the Assembly byelections held in 13 constituencies across seven States on Wednesday. The lowest turnout of 49.80% was seen in Badrinath in Uttarakhand. Sporadic incidents of violence were reported from Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

The byelections are being held in Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh.

Of the 13 seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Trinamool Congress had each held two, while one seat each had been held by the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Janata Dal(U), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

Independents held the remaining three.

The byelections are being keenly watched, especially in Himachal Pradesh, where polling took place in the three seats of Dehra, Hamirpur, and Nalagarh, vacated by Independent MLAs who joined the BJP. These constituencies recorded voter turnouts of 65.42%, 67.50%, and 78.82% respectively.

Making a choice: Voters showing their ID cards as they wait to cast their votes in the Ranaghat-Dakshin Assembly byelection. PTI

Minor clashes

Some violence was reported from Manglaur in Uttarakhand, where four people were injured in a clash between workers of different political parties at a polling booth.

Congress leaders, including former Chief Minister Harish Rawat, Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Yashpal Arya, and Congress MP Imran Masood, condemned the violence.

More than 67% of the voters exercised their franchise in Manglaur, where a bypoll was necessitated by the death of sitting BSP MLA Sarwat Karim Ansari last October. The Badrinath seat fell vacant after sitting Congress MLA Rajendra Bhandari resigned and switched to the BJP in March.

In West Bengal, violence was reported from the Bagdah and Ranaghat Dakshin constituencies, which saw turnouts of 65.15% and 65.37%, respectively. BJP candidates Manoj Kumar Biswas and Binay Kumar Biswas, from Ranaghat-Dakshin and Badgah respectively, said they were not allowed to visit some polling booths. The Trinamool Congress dubbed the allegation as "baseless".

The other two West Bengal seats of Raiganj and Maniktala recorded voter turnouts of 71.29% and 51.39%, respectively.

Switched loyalties

In Punjab, the bypoll to the Jalandhar West seat saw 54.90% of the electorate casting their vote. The seat fell vacant after Sheetal Angural resigned as an AAP MLA and joined the BJP.

In Bihar, the Rupauli constituency recorded a voter turnout of 52.75%. The bypoll was necessitated by the resignation of Bima Bharti, who has won the seat for the JD(U) several times in the past, but recently quit the party to contest the Lok Sabha election on Rashtriya Janata Dal ticket. Independent MP Rajesh Ranjan, alias Pappu Yadav, announced "full support" to the RJD candidate Bima Bharti, whom he had defeated in the Lok Sabha election.

Tamil Nadu's Vikravandi Assembly constituency saw a 82.48% turnout.

Russia, India agree to go ahead with trade in national currency: diplomat

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India and Russia have decided to establish a system for national currency settlement, Roman Babushkin, Chargé d'Affaires of the Russian Embassy, said on Wednesday.

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended his two-day visit to Russia, Mr. Babushkin described the visit as "historic and game-changing", and slammed the Western powers for supporting Ukraine.

He described the recently concluded peace conference in Switzerland as a *tamasha* (charade). He said that Russia's friendship with China should not be a cause of concern for India.

"Russia is the fourth largest trading partner of India, and we have a very optimistic scenario that we will continue our successful and mutually beneficial partnership with India. The most important point of the Joint Statement was that we have decided to go ahead with the establishment of the national currencies settlement system," Mr. Babushkin said, presenting an overview of the discussion between the Indian and Russian delegations in Moscow during the visit of Mr. Modi.

> Let us be very clear, we have never wanted Indians in the Russian Army. You will never see any announcement by Russian authorities
>
> **ROMAN BABUSHKIN**
> Chargé d'Affaires

Mr. Modi visited Moscow on July 8 and 9 and held both delegation-level talks as well as one-on-one discussions with President Vladimir Putin. Mr. Babushkin said the discussions were focused on economic aspects as Russia's trade with India has grown many times in the past two years especially because of the trade in energy that rapidly expanded after Western sanctions were imposed on Russia following the launch of the "special military operation" against Ukraine in February 2022.

The two leaders also discussed the issue of Indian nationals who were fraudulently inducted into the Russian fighting forces and deployed for action on the Russia-Ukraine border.

Echoing Moscow's assurance, Mr. Babushkin said that the Indian men would be sent back "soon", but he argued that Russia did not want Indians to be part of the Russian forces. "Let us be very clear, we have never wanted Indians to be part of the Russian Army. You would never see any announcement by Russian authorities on this," he said.

Probe death in Assam rehab centre: Meghalaya CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma has asked his Assam counterpart Himanta Biswa Sarma to initiate an investigation into the death of a Meghalaya man at a rehabilitation centre in Assam.

In a letter addressed to Dr. Sarma on Tuesday, Mr. Sangma outlined the events leading to the death at the rehab facility in Assam's Goalpara and sought an immediate probe.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
CHIEF EDITOR OFFICE — e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
File Roc. No.TTD/95021(31)/3/2024
e-Tenders are invited for **"Printing and supply of Sapthagiri magazine on Annual Rate contract basis"**. For Tender Notice & details of e-Tender log on the web site **https://www.tirumala.org** and **http://tender.eprocurement.gov.in.**
For further details contact Phone Numbers: **0877-2264543, 2264359.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.67), Date:10-07-2024 — EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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TGSPDCL (erstwhile TSSPDCL)
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TGSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of **(a)** HT Trivector Meters of 0.2S class accuracy, **(b)** 11KV 3x185 Sq.mm Heat Shrinkable Straight Through Jointing Kits, **(c)** IED Relays (with IEC-9180 protocol) **(d)** various structural steel materials **(e)** GI Wire 4mm **(f)** 33KV HT Metering CTS 100/1A,50/1A,25/1A **(g)**11KV 24V Feeder VCBs with CTs and CRPs **(h)**11KV LV VCBs **(i)** 33KV Feeder CTs **(j)** 11KV LV CTs **(k)** various cables **(l)** e-auction of various scrap materials on e-procurement platform.
For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tgsouthernpower.com, www.tender.telangana.gov.in and www.auction.telangana.gov.in.**
Ph: 040-23431360, 1033, 1035, 1026 — Sd/-
R.O. No. : 172-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 Date: 10-07-2024 — CHIEF ENGINEER (P & MM)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION Ltd.
(Office : Chief Engineer/P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana.)
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-61158)
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CE/P&M, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites e-Tender for Design, Manufacture, testing, supply & Delivery of 1591 nos. 11KV Vacuum Interrupters (Max. voltage - 12 KV, Normal amperes 2000A, Min. rupturing capacity - 25KA) of various types suitable for various types of 11KV Vacuum Circuit Breakers installed at various Sub-Stations in PSPCL. For detailed NIT & Tender specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11.07.2024(11:00 hrs) onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
C-420/24 — 76155/12/3091/2023/35537

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Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices, Sarige Sadana, Main Road, Gulbarga-585 102. Tel. & Fax No. 08472-260502, Mobile No. 77606 86172 (COSP), 77609 92029 (S.O).
No. KKT/CO/COSP/ 04 /2024-25 — Dated: 09.07.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER INVITING NOTICE (THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)
Tenders through KPP portal (pre-qualification & commercial) are invited for supply / service of following items.

No. & date	Tender nomenclature	Value	Last date for submission of tender
G-20/ 09.07.24	Supply of 10x20 Tyre, Tube & Flap sets, Tubeless Tyres, Additional Tubes and flaps.	Rs. 19.00 crores	18.07.2024 at 15:00 hours
G-21/ 09.07.24	Selection of Agency for providing HPV drivers to KKRTC	Rs. 18.71 crores	27.07.2024 at 15:00 hours
G-22/ 09.07.24	Supply of Retro Reflective tape without QR code	Rs. 00.34 crores	27.07.2024 at 15:00 hours
G-23/ 09.07.24	Supply of Vinyl Coated Fabric	Rs. 2.34 crores	27.07.2024 at 15:00 hours

All the details of Tender, Registration, Tender form documents etc. are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#**/portal/portal-home. Mail to **cospnekrtc@gmail.com** or **support@eprochelpdesk.com** for further information if required. Further, any addendum / corrigendum related to changes in terms and conditions of tender, specification and calendar of events etc. will be uploaded only through KPP portal.
Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases
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ਪੰਜਾਬ ਰਾਜ ਪਾਵਰ ਕਾਰਪੋਰੇਸ਼ਨ ਲਿਮਿਟਡ
Regd Office:PSEB Head Office,The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact NO. 96461-18773
ਟੈਂਡਰ ਸਪੈਸੀਫਿਕੇਸ਼ਨ ਨੰਬਰ- QQ-2347 / PO-P.
Chief Purchase Officer/ MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 550 Sets of 450 KVAr rating (each Set/Capacitor Bank consisting of 3 Single Phase Units of 150 KVAR rating) and 475 Sets of 600 KVAr rating (each Set/Capacitor Bank consisting of 3 Single Phase Units of 200 KVAR rating), 12.1 KV HT Shunt Capacitor Banks against PSPCL Tender Enquiry No. QQ-2347/ PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11.07.2024 onwards.
ਨੋਟ: ਜੇਕਰ ਕੋਈ Corrigendum ਅਤੇ addendum, ਹੋਇਆ ਤਾਂ ਉਸ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ https://eproc.punjab.gov.in ਤੇ ਵੇਖਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।
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Office of The Director, Mines & Geology, Udaipur
File no- Dir/po/2024-25 — Date:- 01-07-2024
NIT No.:- 01/2024-25
UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0003, UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0004
UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0005, UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0006
UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0007, UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0008
UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0009, UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0010
UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0011, UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0012
UBN NO. :- MIN2425GLOB0013
Bids are invited for the supply & installation of Machinery/ Laboratory equipments. Tenders are to be submitted "online" in to envelop based, Technical bid & Financial bid, from the interested Bidders up to 01:00 pm, 22 July 2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, https://mines.rajasthan.gov.in/
The approximate value of tender is Rs. 4,70,20,000/-
DIPR/C/5429/24 — ADA DMG UDAIPUR

INBRIEF

HC orders Patanjali to deposit ₹50 lakh for flouting its order

The Bombay High Court on Monday directed Patanjali Ayurved to deposit ₹50 lakh for an alleged violation of an ad-interim order restraining the firm from selling its camphor products related to a trademark infringement allegation filed by Mangalam Organics Ltd. A copy of the order was made available on Wednesday. On June 2 this year, Patanjali Ayurved, in an affidavit, issued an unconditional apology and an undertaking to abide by the orders of the court but in the same affidavit, Rajneesh Mishra, Director of Patanjali Ayurved, admitted to breaching the ad-interim order and accepted to selling camphor products worth ₹49,57,861 after the injunction order.

Bombay High Court rejects discharge plea of Naxal leader

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday rejected the petition filed by 73-year-old Satyanarayana Rani, an alleged Naxal operative, in connection with the 2019 Gadchiroli blast incident in which 15 police personnel and one civilian were killed. The court was hearing two appeals filed by Mr. Rani against an order passed by the Special National Investigation Agency Court in Mumbai that gave authority to the agency to hand over some additional documents to the court. The Court rejected the plea. Mr. Rani was granted bail by the High Court in July 2022. He had later filed a petition seeking his discharge from the case, claiming there was no evidence against him that could prove his involvement in it.

NGO working on rights issues loses FCRA registration

Ministry tells CACIM that cancellation is due to incorrect filings of returns in 2018 and 2019; Centre for Financial Accountability is one of its projects

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of the parent entity of the non-profit Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA), which monitors and critically analyses the role of financial institutions and their impact on development, human rights, and the environment.

In a recent report, the CFA had highlighted how additional projects sanctioned in a Special Economic Zone operated by the Adani Group in the Kutch region of Gujarat "will compound environmental hazards and increase health risks for the people while further polluting the environment and accelerating degradation of the ecology".

In December 2023, the CFA organised an online meeting with the All-India Bank Officers Confederation to discuss the issues faced by public sector banks and the road ahead.

Speaking with *The Hindu*, Joe Athialy, Executive Director, CFA said they were yet to receive the orders cancelling the FCRA registration of CACIM (India Institute for Critical Action Centre in Movement), but they had been informed online. CFA is one of the projects of CACIM.

"We have been told that the cancellation is due to the incorrect filings [of return] of financial years 2018 and 2019. This may be just an excuse, as they had all the years to ask us to rectify the mistakes. We certainly believe that the work we did has contributed to this action," Mr. Athialy said. He said the government wanted to throttle the organisations that were critical of its work.

"We are not going to get bogged down by such actions. We will continue our work. We recognise that the government wanted to throttle our work. We will find innovative ways to carry forward our work, which includes domestic donations. There is a life beyond FCRA," he said.

Earlier in January, the Ministry cancelled the FCRA registration of Centre for Policy Research (CPR), a leading public policy research institution in New Delhi.

Since 2015, the FCRA registration of more than 16,000 NGOs have been cancelled on account of "violation." As on Wednesday, there were 15,946 FCRA-registered NGOs active in the country. The FCRA registration of nearly 6,000 NGOs had ceased to operate from January 1, 2022 as the Ministry either refused to renew their application or the NGOs did not apply for renewal.

Centre asks States to raise awareness of cadaver donations

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The donated bodies will aid in better teaching of medical professionals

Amid a shortage of cadavers for academic and research purposes at medical colleges across the country, the Union Health Ministry has appealed to the States and Union Territories to encourage donation of bodies in the event of deaths happening outside hospitals.

In a note to the Health Secretaries, the Director-General of Health Services, Atul Goel, said the Union government was committed to promoting and augmenting organ donation to save the lives of those with organ failures. In most of the cases, organ donation was feasible only from patients certified as brain stem dead (before the heart stops).

On many occasions, it was noted that organ donations were not possible in situations where deaths happened outside the hospital, cardiac deaths occurring before the patient got admitted to the intensive care unit, and deaths before the completion of brain stem death certification.

Body donation possible

In such situations and also in deaths happening at home, body donation is possible. "The donated human bodies are required for academic and research purposes, which aids in better teaching of medical professionals. We have a shortage of human cadavers required for teaching in the country," Professor Goel said.

Asking the State Health Secretaries to instruct the stakeholders accordingly, he said in scenarios where organ donation was not possible, the option of body donation could be explored and family members encouraged and facilitated for the same. "This will go a long way in offsetting the shortage of human cadavers in medical institutions."

In a separate communication, the Health Ministry informed that as part of the Indian Organ Donation Day on August 3, it had been decided to organise a public awareness campaign in the name of *Angdaan Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan*.

"One organ donor can save up to eight or nine lives," Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra said.

'Hospitals that turn medical colleges won't lose funding'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra has written to certain States and Union Territories reassuring them of funding, amid apprehension that existing hospitals which are being converted into medical colleges, will stop receiving funds from the National Health Mission (NHM).

Mr. Chandra has clarified that district or referral hospitals which are being converted into medical colleges will continue their roles and obligations under the NHM and will continue to receive funding support from the Centre. The letter came in view of demands made by the States and U.T.s for construction of additional district and referral hospitals, due to fears that the existing ones may lose funding.

Three phases of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme have been implemented, to date, under which 157 colleges have been sanctioned in line with the objective of increasing medical professionals. As of now, of these 157 medical colleges, 108 have become functional, with 40 of these (157) being located in the aspirational districts, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated.

New textbooks for Class 6 to be made available by July-end, clarifies NCERT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) said on Wednesday that new textbooks for Class 6 will be made available by July-end.

In response to a story published by *The Hindu* on July 9, the NCERT stated that all Grade 6 textbooks would be made available by the NCERT this month and that the two-month timeline referred to in the article was incorrect.

In States such as Tamil Nadu, where the new academic year begins in June, the non-availability of Class 6 textbooks had raised concern among schools. In several other States, the academic year starts only in July.

The Class 6 textbooks for English (titled *Poorvi*), Hindi (titled *Malhar*) and Urdu (titled *Khayal*) are available online in digital format, but those related to science, maths and social science are yet to be made available.

A National Syllabus and Teaching-Learning Material Committee had been mandated to develop new textbooks with a revamped syllabus for all classes with a tight deadline of seven months. Later, its mandate was changed only to develop textbooks for Classes 3 and 6 in the current academic year.

"To allay any misgivings and for greater clarity it is reiterated that NCERT has already made available a month-long bridge programme in all the ten subject areas for Grade 6, which is being used for teaching at present," the NCERT statement said.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had held a review meeting of senior officials on July 4 to assess the progress of development of textbooks.

With regard to complaints of unavailability of textbooks for Classes 9 and 11 from some private schools in Tamil Nadu, the NCERT said that the Regional Publication and Distribution Centre in Bengaluru catered to all South Indian States, including Tamil Nadu.

Title-wise demand for Class 9 and 11 textbooks received from RPDC Bengaluru has been met by the NCERT publication division and no shortage has been reported by the RPDC, the statement said.

'IIT-Madras ruled out mass malpractice in NEET'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nationwide exercise: NEET-UG was conducted at 4,750 exam centres in 571 cities. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Centre on Wednesday submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court referring to a data analytics report submitted by the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, ruling out "mass malpractice" or a localised set of candidates having benefited in the NEET-UG 2024 exam, leading to abnormal scores.

The IIT-Madras was assigned the task of suggesting modalities which could be followed to segregate students suspected of using unfair means from other students.

In a separate affidavit, the National Testing Agency (NTA), which holds the test, said the total number of actual candidates whose final scores reflected perfect 720 marks was 61 only. The NTA denied allegations of petitioners that 67 candidates scored perfect marks as "fallacious and incorrect".

It said six of the 67 scored 720 marks in view of the grace marks awarded due to loss of time at a centre in Jhajjar. Of the 61 candidates, only 17 obtained 720 out of 720 based on provisional answer keys and 44 on account of the revision in one answer key of physics.

"Thus the actual candidates without revision of the answer key were only 17 candidates which is not significantly higher than previous years... These 17 candidates are distributed among 16 centres located in 15 cities," the NTA said.

Future security options under consideration include replacing the mode of conduct of examination from the pen-and-paper mode (OMR mode) to a computer-based test mode.

Referring to allegations that the question paper was leaked through a Telegram channel, the NTA said the video was fake. "The timestamp was manipulated to create a false impression of an early leak. Images in the video were edited. The date was intentionally modified to suggest a May 4 leak," it said.

On the logistics and security features of conducting the 2024 exam, the NTA said the movement of the question papers was tracked on a real-time basis. Transportation of the papers was done under CCTV coverage and the footage was preserved. Any breach in security would be recorded and reported to the NTA. Not only the place where the breach took place, but the place, time, and stage at which it occurred would be reported.

The question papers were stored in trunks in safety deposit vaults of the State Bank of India and the Canara Bank of the districts concerned where the exam was held.

On the preparation of the questions, the NTA said experts were invited to a restricted area in the NTA office. Workshops were held and a total of 140 subject experts participated in the exercise between August and December 2023.

The work of the experts was sealed at the end of each day and returned to them the next day.

Ten subject experts combined the questions into question papers between February 16 and February 28. A minimum of two fully independent question papers were made. Subject experts were different for each subject question paper. Questions papers were solved by another nine subject experts who gave their feedback. This exercise was held between March 1 and 7.

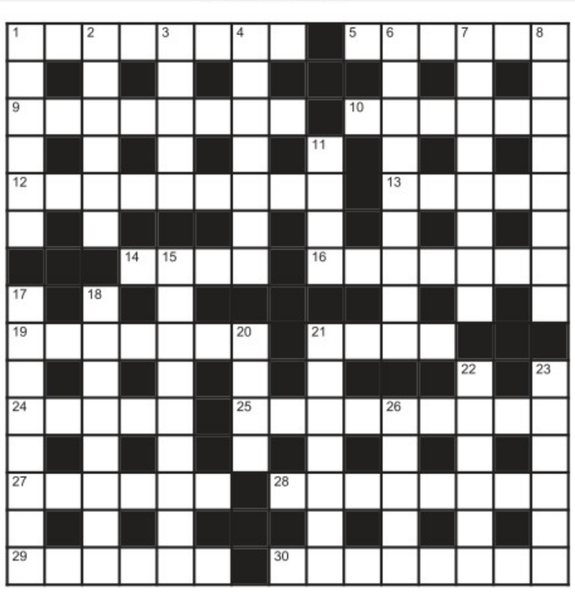
The question papers were printed in confidential press and logs maintained. Translations of the questions were done into 12 languages by a team of 101 translators between March 8 and 31.

TH CROSSWORD + 14224

(set by KrisKross)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Architectural structure in India covered with gypsum (8)
5 Call KrisKross about some strong medicine (6)
9 Girlfriend initially dismissed diamonds as unfashionable (8)
10 Everyone welcoming saint - you and I too (2,4)
12 Advertisement describing soap solution for fabric (9)
13 In counter, see puris (Indian bread) (5)
14 Ancient painter, mostly contrarian (4)
16 Con to run back carrying an American dish made of onions (7)
19 Say, where you may see sunlight reflecting in the early morning, or very late (7)
21 Superior perhaps loves assessing knowledge, especially picking toppers (4)
24 Oscar for each amateur musical performance (5)
25 Following a double century, tail-ender hoped to become famous (9)
27 It provides care for a small charge (6)
28 Reflect with partner about changing diet (8)
29 Official never eats egg with tea, reportedly (6)
30 One prepared to go through bet for liqueur (8)

Down

1 Quick dance exercise (6)
2 Lodge collecting rent raised not long ago (6)
3 Criticise plan (5)
4 Old tree chopped down and used (7)
6 Sweet setter's upset by regular pranks (6,3)
7 Man is wearing blue paint that's dramatic (8)
8 Unfairly accused, back in jail… it's the end of the road (3-2-3)
11 Government's free network (4)
15 Criminal family's first head, grimly taking on rival leaders (9)
17 African Moor at war about to occupy throne (8)
18 Small peak is the most difficult (8)
20 Contract to remove "Times" (4)
21 Choose to cycle to the borders of Rajasthan to get support for the Speaker (7)
22 Force international money deal (6)
23 Bond heard out chief of Espionage (6)
26 Sign of dental problem - file off the top (5)

SUDOKU

9			5					2
2		1			9			
	6	7		2			9	
1	4			9			7	
	2		6		3		5	
	9			5			2	4
	7			1		3	6	
			4			2		5
8					2			7

No.SS6216 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	W	A		D		F		E	A	E
P	I	G	S	W	I	L	L		V	A	L	I	S	E
	T		T		V		I		E		C			
T	H	I	E	V	E			P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L
	E		R		R				Y		V		L	
O	R	G	I	A	S	T	S		M	N	E	M	O	N
			S		I		O		O				P	
J	A	C	K	O	F	A	L	L	T	R	A	D	E	S
	M					I		I	H		P			
P	I	C	N	I	C			D	E	E	P	E	N	E	D
	C		I		A				R		R		Q	
M	A	I	N	S	T	A	Y		S	T	I	R	U	P
	B		E		I		E		S		T		A	
B	L	O	T	T	O			L	O	O	K	I	N	T	O
	E		Y		N			L		N		F		E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	6	2	4	3	1	5	7
3	7	5	6	1	9	2	8	4
4	1	2	5	8	7	9	3	6
5	4	1	3	7	6	8	9	2
9	6	7	8	2	1	3	4	5
2	8	3	4	9	5	6	7	1
7	2	9	1	3	4	5	6	8
1	5	4	9	6	8	7	2	3
6	3	8	7	5	2	4	1	9

FAITH

Understanding God

Sometimes, it may not be possible for us to gauge how severe a flood current is, as well as its course of running and speed. Similarly, we cannot realise the nature of the other four elements. Can we understand God – the creator of the Universe – and His features and qualities fully well? Trichy Sri Kalyanaraman said in a discourse that Tamil poet Sekkizhar says about God as "*Ulagelaam unarndhu odharkariyan*". Sri Arunagiri Nadhar says He is like a dwarf, but His qualities and deeds are great and cannot be completely understood (*Alavil Siriyavan, Alavida Ariyadavan*). The saint poet Thiruvalluvar says whatever a man may deeply learn, only his natural wisdom will prevail (*Nunniya nool* -kural 373).

God is ever ready to extend His blessings to us, but we should prompt Him to do so through our conduct and behaviour. If we shower Him with our devotion, He will pour His blessings on us. Only by constant practice can devotion be developed. While we attach importance to each and every minute activity in our worldly life, we should equally put in our efforts to realise that God resides in us.

If we sail a mind-like raft with haughtiness as its oar and anger as the stock laden, the boat will only hit a rock. To reach the ultimate destination, we must chant God's name, overcoming the pride of ego and possession.

INBRIEF

Hyundai Motor India unveils Exter Knight at ₹8.38 lakh

Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) has unveiled the 'bold & sporty' Exter Knight to mark the first anniversary celebrations of the Exter SUV, at prices ranging from ₹8.38 lakh to ₹10,42,800 (ex-showroom). The Exter Knight is based on the SX and SX(O) Connect variants of the Exter. The SUV is available in two powertrain options - 1.2 litre Kappa petrol engine with choice of 5-speed MT and Smart Auto AMT, and 7 colours including three new exclusive colours, HMIL said.

TVS Motor opens bookings for Apache Racing Edition

TVS Motor Company (TVSM) has commenced bookings for its 2024 TVS Apache RTR 160 Racing Edition at ₹1,28,720 (ex-showroom, Delhi). The motorcycle comes equipped with "the most powerful" 160cc air-cooled engine, delivering an impressive 16.04 PS @ 8750 RPM and three ride modes (Sport, Urban, and Rain), a digital LCD cluster with TVS SmartXonnect, LED headlamp and tail lamp, and Glide Through Technology, TVSM said in a statement.

EV maker River says talking to States for land acquisition

EV start-up River said it is in discussion with the governments of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for acquiring 25-50 acres in one of these States to set up a factory with a capacity to manufacture 5 lakh electric scooters. "We are actively talking to the governments... for the next factory we want to set up on our land," co-founder and CEO Aravind Mani said. River is in talks as it expects to run out of capacity at the existing facility near Bengaluru, by early 2026.

Goyal asks industry to offer ideas to simplify compliance

Minister says pursuing second iteration of Jan Vishwas law to reduce compliance burden for businesses, decriminalise laws so as to ease investment inflows; prods industry to be proactive

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a bid to ease investment inflows, the government is pursuing a second iteration of the Jan Vishwas law to reduce businesses' compliance burden and decriminalise laws, but is grappling with a lack of industry inputs about the pain points that need addressing, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal lamented on Wednesday, pleading with businesses to come forward and share ideas.

"We are trying to make the Indian investment journey easier by working on reducing the compliance burden and decriminalising laws, but I would urge industry and associations to be far more demanding, be far more proactive," Mr. Goyal said addressing industry body FICCI's national executive committee. "I am struggling to prepare Jan Vishwas 2.0, as we are not getting enough ideas, either from industry or in our different ministerial consultations," the minister added.

Self interest: Goyal urges industry and associations to be far more demanding in sharing pain points that need addressing. ANI

Net inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows slid to $26.5 billion in 2023-24, from $42 billion in 2022-23, the RBI reported in its Annual Report.

"We need all of you to come forward and give a balanced view on what is necessary," he said.

SBI raises ₹10,000 crore from infra bond issue

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI), said it raised ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.36% payable annually for a 15-year term, through its sixth infrastructure bond issue.

"The issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids in excess of ₹18,145 crore and was oversubscribed by around 3.6 times against the base issue size of ₹5,000 crore," it said.

Pension, PF, mutual funds and insurance firms invested, SBI said, adding proceeds would be used for affordable housing and infrastructure.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,925	-0.53
US Dollar	83.51	-0.02
Gold	75,050	-2.37
Brent oil	85.49	0.89

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3096.00	-14.75
Adani Ports	1487.80	9.80
Apollo Hosp	6375.70	55.40
Asian Paints	2996.45	91.45
Axis Bank	1291.65	2.25
Bajaj Auto	9542.45	8.35
Bajaj Finserv	1582.55	0.95
Bajaj Finance	7054.95	-13.10
Bharti Airtel	1445.05	9.50
BPCL	300.35	0.15
Britannia Ind	5755.55	86.70
Cipla	1513.20	1.15
Coal India	490.75	-3.05
Divis Lab	4636.95	85.00
Dr Reddys Lab	6592.55	9.70
Eicher Motors	4849.15	20.45
Grasim Ind	2802.15	40.35
HCL Tech	1509.95	-21.15
HDFC Bank	1626.10	-10.40
HDFC Life	632.75	9.10
Hero MotoCorp	5508.75	-80.40
Hindalco	693.30	-13.70
Hind Unilever	2610.45	20.30
ICICI Bank	1243.20	-5.05
IndusInd Bank	1425.95	-8.30
Infosys	1648.25	-8.90
ITC	451.45	-1.15
JSW Steel	925.40	-9.90
Kotak Bank	1829.85	-18.00
L&T	3650.05	-16.05
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5376.25	-0.90
M&M	2732.00	-193.50
Maruti Suzuki	12772.80	-54.90
NestleIndia	2616.45	-16.65
NTPC	381.40	4.35
ONGC	298.15	0.70
PowerGrid Corp	346.05	4.90
Reliance Ind	3168.45	-12.10
SBI Life	1558.80	34.05
State Bank	849.00	-12.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2762.10	-29.90
Sun Pharma	1598.55	13.15
TataConsumerProduct	1150.80	8.60
Tata Motors	1005.50	-9.45
Tata Steel	167.98	-3.82
TCS	3909.15	-76.35
Tech Mahindra	1463.35	-2.40
Titan	3225.00	9.85
UltraTech Cement	11634.25	-45.55
Wipro	535.55	-5.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 10

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.32	83.64
Euro	90.15	90.51
British Pound	106.73	107.15
Japanese Yen (100)	51.58	51.78
Chinese Yuan	11.45	11.50
Swiss Franc	92.79	93.15
Singapore Dollar	61.75	61.99
Canadian Dollar	61.11	61.35
Malaysian Ringitt	17.72	17.80
Australian Dollar	56.16	56.38

Source:Indian Bank

RBI's Rao flags issues with disclosure quality at some NBFCs

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao has flagged concerns over quality of disclosures made by some NBFCs and urged the auditing community to ensure that entities provide appropriate qualitative information to depositors as well as other stakeholders.

"The statutory auditors play a significant role in maintaining stakeholder confidence in audited financial statements and this is particularly important in the case of banking industry where the entire edifice is built on 'trust' and the biggest external stakeholders, i.e., depositors, are fragmented and unorganised," he said.

Mr. Rao emphasised that the RBI has a strong interest in promoting sound and high quality accounting and disclosure standards for the banking and financial industry as well as in having transparent and comparable financial statements that strengthen market discipline.

BOI pays ₹935.44 crore dividend to Govt. of India

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bank of India on Wednesday handed over a dividend cheque for ₹935.44 crore for the financial year 2023-24 to the Government of India.

The cheque was handed over to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman by MD & CEO Rajneesh Karnatak and all the four Executive Directors of Bank of India in the presence of Bhushan Kumar Sinha, the Government Nominee Director of the Bank of India.

'CV industry heading toward a 3-6% degrowth in FY25'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

After witnessing year-on-year volume growth of 30.7% in FY22 and 28.7% in FY23; and a muted growth of 0.7% in FY24, India's commercial vehicles (CV) industry is headed to degrow by up to 6% in FY25 rating agency CareEdge said in a study.

"Several factors contribute to this, including general election-related disruptions, elevated vehicle costs, and high channel inventory levels," said Arti Roy, Associate Director, CareEdge Ratings.

'Possible improvement'

"However, there is hope for improvement in H2 of FY25, as infrastructure projects pick up pace post-monsoon and anticipated interest rate cuts provide some relief," she added.

Hardik Shah, Director, CareEdge said the CV industry witnessed its highest ever sales in FY19. Post COVID the industry will surpass FY19 performance due to improvement in sales in FY22 and FY23.

'MSMEs need outlays for technology upgrades, to aid in green transition'

BUDGET IN FOCUS

A. Sakthivel

Recently, Union Minister for MSMEs Jitan Ram Manjhi said six pillars were identified as focus areas for the growth of the MSME sector – formalisation and access to credit, increased access to market and e-commerce adoption, higher productivity through modern technology, enhanced skill levels and digitalisation in the service sector, support to Khadi, Village and Coir industry to globalise them, and empowerment of women and artisans through enterprise creation.

While the interim Union Budget presented in February this year maintained stability, the upcoming Budget must strike a balance to fuel growth, curb inflation, generate employment, promote MSMEs, support ease of doing business, and promote the manufacturing sector.

The other important area that must be prioritised is infrastructure development for sustainable economic growth, especially in industrial clusters.

Need of the hour: The Budget must consider reintroducing the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme. V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

Raising employment

The Government did well for the economy with exports clocking a Compounded Annul Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.5% in the last six years moving from $478 billion in FY18 to $778 billion in FY24.

We are now aiming to reach $2 trillion by FY30, which requires a CAGR of 14.4%. This is a challenge in the current geopolitical situation but within the realm of reach. It requires supporting exporters and the MSME sector by providing an enabling and supportive ecosystem.

The importance of bolstering MSMEs is more important in the current situation as the sector is the backbone of the Indian economy and a key employment generator. For this sector to sustain and grow in the current challenging situation, one strong demand by the MSMEs is that the non-performing asset (NPA) timeline be extended to 180 days from 90 days. It will provide relief to the sector as many MSMEs are struggling because of this. The Credit Guarantee Scheme for micro and small enterprises in the manufacturing sector must also be revamped.

The Interest Equalisation Scheme emphatically supports exports. This scheme may be extended for a period of five years. Coming to the rise in interest rates consequent to the increase in repo rate from 4.4% to 6.5% in the last two years, the subvention rates may be restored from 3% to 5% for manufacturers in MSMEs and from 2% to 3% for all in respect of 410 tariff lines.

For the textile and garment sector, which is dominated by MSMEs, and the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products [RoDTEP] and Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies [ROSCTL] schemes should be extended for another five years for the sector.

The Budget must consider reintroducing the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme for MSME exporters for another two years. This supported most MSME units with their exports.

The timeline for payments to MSME jobwork must be extended to 120 days from the current 45 days as the RBI permits a time limit of 180 days for the realisation of export proceeds.

Unless the payment from buyers are realised by exporters, it will be difficult to pay MSME workers, which will create fund flow issues for exporters.

Another flagship scheme of the government is the PLI Scheme, which is working well for large-scale industries. For the textile and garment sector, the investment limit under the PLI scheme must be pared to ₹25 crore and the turnover limit must be reduced to ₹70 crore. This will help MSME exporters to upgrade their technologies and compete in the international market.

Green transition, R&D

Another significant area of concern is climate change. This has impacted MSMEs severely. Hence more soft funds must be made available for MSMEs to attempt a green transition and to fuel growth with green resources. MSME clusters like Tiruppur can tap into significant export potential with this support.

Research development and innovation are key to sustaining exports. R&D globally is incentivised and 35 out of 38 OECD countries provide either lower taxes or higher deductions on R&D expenditure.

We expect that the weighted tax deduction under Section 35(2AB) may be increased to 300% and the benefit under Section 35(2AB) also be extended to limited liability partnerships (LLP), partnership firms and proprietary firms, as MSME units largely fall in these categories.

With schemes that provide funds for infrastructure creation, technology upgradation and climate change adaptation, the MSME sector will be able to contribute even more for the economy

(A. Sakthivel is honorary chairman of Tiruppur Exporters Association and a former chairman of both the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) and the Apparel Export Promotion Council)

Deputy Commissioner Office,
Kolar District, Kolar
(District Urban Development Cell, Kolar)
Phone & Fax No.**08152-243555**
E-mail: **ka.kolar.dudc@gmail.com**
No: DUDC/SWM/CR/50/2023-24 Date: 06.07.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(As per the conditions of the standard tender document KPPP Portal tender notification)

Karnataka Procurement Portal as per the GO. No.FD/06/PCL/2006, Bangalore from the Registered, Eligible Contractors. For details visit **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The Indent Numbers details below. Any addendums will be notified through Karnataka Procurement portal only.

Work Indent No.: **(1) DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT3318/CALL-3.** Estimated Amount: **Rs. 1308.30 lakhs.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 15.00 lakhs. (2) DMA/2024-25/SE3160.** Estimated Amount: **Rs. 8.67 lakhs.** EMD Amount: **Rs. 0.22 lakhs.** Tender last date and Bid Opening date should be seen in KPPP Portal Website

Sd/- Project Director,
District Urban Development Cell, Kolar.
DIPR/KOLAR/R.O.No.86/KSMCA/2024-25

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Ph: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: **eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com**
No:EE/RWS&D/CBP/TS/TENDER/AE-1/2023-24/CALL-2 Date: 04.07.2024

Short-term Tender Notification No.: 19/CALL-2/2023-24, Date: 04.07.2024

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"s Connections in Alipur Village at Alipur Gramapanchayth Gowribidanur Taluk Chickballapur District. Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders through KPPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

(1) Pre bid meeting date: **12.07.2024 Time: 5.30 P.M. (2)** Last Date & Time for queries: **16.07.2024 Time: 5.30 P.M. (3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **18.07.2024 Time: 5.30 P.M. (4)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **20.07.2024 Time: 11.00 A.M. (5)** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: **22.07.2024 Time: 11.00 A.M.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW&S Division, Chickballapur
DIPR/CHICKBALLAPUR/R.O.No. 83/KSMCA/2024-25

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರ (ಯೋಜನೆ)
ನಂ. ಎಚ್‌ಡಿಎಂಸಿ/100/01/ದರಗಳು/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–07–2024
ದರವಾರು ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

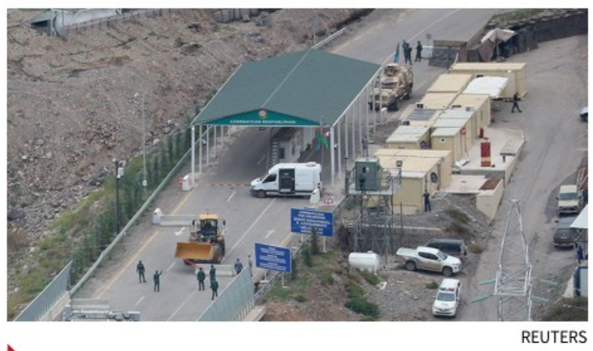
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ Self-supported pre-painted Galvalume steel roof sheet, ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಹಾಗೂ Supply, Installation, Commissioning of 01 Numbers of 60T capacity Weighbridge along with Foundation and Civil and Electrical works for Installing the Weigh Bridge at HDMC limits, ಅಳವಡಿಸಲು ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆಯ ತುಲನಾತ್ಮಕ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ತಯಾರಕರು ವ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೀಲಬಂದ ಕೊಟೇಶನ್ ಮೂಲಕ **ದಿನಾಂಕ:12/07/2024 ರ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯ** ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾ ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಅಂಚೆ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ಮಿಚಂಚೆ ವಿಳಾಸ (projecthdmc1@gmail.com) ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಿದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ http://www.hdmc.mrc.gov.in/en/tenders ದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/07/2024** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **ದಿನಾಂಕ:15/07/2024** ರಂದು ಹಾಜರಿದ್ದವರ ಸಮ್ಮುಖದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೋಟೇಶನ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಇಚ್ಛೆಯುಳ್ಳ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ತಯಾರಕರು ವ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರು ತಮ್ಮ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ದರಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸೂಚಿಸಬಹುದು. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/132/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ/2024–25
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, CHIKKAMAGALURU.
Tender Notice No.: 01/2024-25/ Date: 08.07.2024
Notice Inviting Tender
Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tender for Selection and Empanelment of Implementation Support Agencies (NGOs/VOs/SHGs) for providing services in preparation and implementation of Village Action Plan and in IEC & HRD activities under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in rural areas under Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department for Rs. 114.90 lakhs. Contract can be awarded to contractors only if they have the minimum qualifications as mentioned in Act 1. Tender for works should be submitted through KPPP Portal from 08.07.2024 to 23.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Tender will be opened on 24.07.2024 at 5.00 PM. In case this day is a holiday the next day will be considered. Notification can be read on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/ckm/ksmca/23/24-25/246

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ–03/ಎಇ–3/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:– 09.07.2024
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ : ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಾಅ/ದಾವಿದಾ/ಐ.ಎಫ್.ಟಿ–03/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.07.2024.
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲೂ–4ರಂತೆ, ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ 8443 – ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ 1 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 26.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08192 234951, 231530) ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/126/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

YEREVAN

Armenia and Azerbaijan to hold U.S.-mediated talks in Washington



REUTERS

Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan will meet on Wednesday in Washington for a fresh round of U.S.-mediated talks, Yerevan and Washington announced, as the arch-foe neighbours negotiate a peace agreement. The meeting will take place on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Washington. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan says 1.45 million Afghan refugees can stay for another year

REUTERS

Pakistan announced it is extending the stay of 1.45 million Afghan refugees who legally reside in the country, a day after a visit by the U.N. refugee agency. Afghan refugees with proper documentation will be able to remain in Pakistan until June 30, 2025, according to a statement issued by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's office. AP

BEIJING

Bangladesh, China sign 21 deals, MoU, as Hasina meets Xi Jinping

AFP

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met President Xi Jinping and her Chinese counterpart Li Qiang here on Wednesday as the two countries signed 21 agreements, MoUs and announced seven more projects to further elevate their strategic cooperative ties. The talks also featured Rohingya issue, business and investments. PTI

MOSCOW

Russia outlaws activities of *The Moscow Times* news outlet

AP

Russia on Wednesday named *The Moscow Times* news outlet an "undesirable organisation", outlawing its activities inside Russia and leaving anybody who cooperates with them open to criminal prosecution. Moscow has escalated a campaign against independent media since it launched the Ukraine war in 2022. AFP

Israeli Army asks Gaza City residents to evacuate as it steps up offensive

It warns that the urban area, previously home to half a million people, will 'remain a dangerous combat zone' and sets out designated escape routes to the south; an upsurge in fighting comes as mediator Qatar is due to resume truce talks

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

The Israeli Army dropped thousands of leaflets over Gaza City on Wednesday urging all residents to flee a heavy offensive that has rocked the main city of the besieged Palestinian territory.

The leaflets, addressed to "everyone in Gaza City", set out designated escape routes to the south and warned that the urban area, previously home to more than half a million people, would "remain a dangerous combat zone".

The warning follows three partial evacuation orders and came as Israeli troops, backed by tanks and aircraft, have fought Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants in the heaviest combat operations the city has seen in months.

Final glimpse: A woman inspects the damage, after Israeli troops withdrew from Shejaiya in eastern part of Gaza City. REUTERS

In one operation, the Army said it had killed militants and found weapons inside the long-vacated Gaza City headquarters of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA.

Elsewhere across Gaza, deadly strikes have hit four schools used as shelters in four days, sparking international outrage.

The upsurge in fighting and displacement came as mediator Qatar was due to resume talks on Wednesday toward a truce and hostage release deal to end the war, now grinding on into its 10th month.

Time for talks

An Israeli delegation led by Mossad chief David Barnea arrived in Doha for the talks, a source with knowledge of the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of their sensitivity. CIA director William Burns was also expected in the Qatari capital, after holding talks in Cairo on Tuesday.

The latest fighting in Gaza has newly displaced 3,50,000 civilians, said UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini, who spoke before the latest leaflet drop and said "there is absolutely no safe space in Gaza".

One woman carrying her scant belongings through the bombed-out wasteland, Nimr al-Jamal, told AFP on Tuesday that "this is the 12th time" her family has had to flee.

Hamas, whose October 7 attack started the war, has accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of escalating the fighting to derail the latest ceasefire talks.

Myanmar rebel group seizes town along road to China

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

Myanmar ethnic minority fighters said on Wednesday they had seized a town along a key trade highway to China following days of clashes, in another blow to the military.

Northern Shan State has been rocked by fighting since late last month, when an alliance of ethnic armed groups renewed an offensive against the military along the highway to China's Yunnan province.

The clashes have shredded a Beijing-brokered truce that in January halted an offensive by the alliance of the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA).

The town of Naungcho "is totally ours", General Tar Bhone Kyaw of the TNLA said.

Incremental gain: The Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) said the town of Naungcho 'is totally ours'. AFP

Earlier on Wednesday, a military source said that ethnic minority fighters were in control of "most" of the town.

Naungcho is around 50 km down the highway from the former British hill station of Pyin Oo Lwin, home to the military's elite officer training academy.

Another road from the town leads to Taunggyi, the capital of Shan state.

On Tuesday the junta said 18 civilians in Lashio had been killed and 24 wounded in shelling, rocket and drone attacks by the alliance. The military has carried out several air strikes around the town of about 1,50,000 people.

Bangladesh suspends job reservations after protests by students

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's top court on Wednesday temporarily suspended quotas for coveted government jobs after thousands of students staged nationwide protests against what they call a discriminatory system, lawyers said.

The quota system reserves more than half of well-paid and massively over-subscribed civil service posts, totalling hundreds of thousands of government jobs, for specific groups including children of liberation heroes.

Students launched protests earlier this month, demanding a merit-based system.

The quota system was abolished in 2018 after weeks of protests, but reinstated in June by Dhaka's High Court, sparking fury from students.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday suspended that order for a month.

Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan had also requested that students return to class.

Trump doubles down on Biden, accuses Democrats of lying to protect President

Agence France-Presse
DORAL

Donald Trump unleashed a torrent of invective against U.S. President Joe Biden on Tuesday, mercilessly assailing the embattled Democrat as he faces down calls to end his re-election bid after a disastrous debate performance.

Mr. Trump's speech in Florida was his first public appearance since the clamour for Mr. Biden's withdrawal began gaining momentum, and the gloves were emphatically off as the Republican accused Democrats of lying to protect the President.

Donald Trump

"It's the biggest cover up in political history," Mr. Trump thundered near the start of a 75-minute speech, which focused almost entirely on his 81-year-old election rival.

"As you know, they are all co-conspirators in the sinister plot to defraud the American public about the cognitive abilities of the man in the Oval Office."

'Missing President'

In a typically bombastic speech peppered with multiple exaggerations and falsehoods, Mr. Trump accused Mr. Biden of going missing regularly from the Oval Office while his son Hunter, a convicted felon, runs the government aided by First Lady Jill Biden.

For much of the rally at his Doral National golf resort in Miami, Mr. Trump ran through his usual stump speech, characterising America as teetering on the edge of catastrophe and describing a world facing a race against the clock to avert nuclear armageddon.

The pair had previously sparred over who had a better long game during the debate, and the Biden campaign's response to the latest challenge came in the form of a golf pun.

"Joe Biden doesn't have time for Donald Trump's weird antics – he's busy leading America and defending the free world," it said.

"Donald Trump is a liar, a convict, and a fraud only out for himself par for the course."

Iraq court condemns to death widow of IS leader al-Baghdadi

Agence France-Presse
BAGHDAD

An Iraqi court has sentenced to death a wife of slain Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on charges of detaining Yazidi women, the judiciary said on Wednesday.

The wife of the polygamous Baghdadi was brought back to Iraq after being detained in Turkiye.

"The Karkh (west Baghdad) criminal court sentenced to death the wife of the terrorist Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi for the crime of working with the Daesh terrorist group and detaining Yazidi women in her house," the Supreme Judicial Council said.

The slain leader's wife detained the Yazidis who "were later kidnapped" by IS fighters in the Sinjar district of northern Iraq, it added.

A judicial source identified her as Asma Mohammed.

Washington announced in 2019 that U.S. troops had killed Baghdadi in an operation in northwestern Syria.

Sport

Alvarez and Messi's goals take Argentina to the cusp of defending its Copa America crown

Reuters
EAST RUTHERFORD

Defending champion Argentina booked its place in the Copa America final after goals from Julian Alvarez and Lionel Messi gave it a 2-0 win over Canada in the semifinal at New Jersey on Tuesday.

After soaking up some early pressure, Argentina went ahead when Rodrigo De Paul played through Alvarez, who ghosted in between two defenders to score with a tidy finish in the 22nd minute.

Messi scored Argentina's second in the 51st minute when he stuck out a boot to divert Enzo Fernandez's shot from the edge of the area past Canada goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau.

Record effort: Messi's 109th strike for Argentina put him second in the all-time international scoring charts. AFP

The goal moved Messi to joint fifth in the all-time Copa America scoring charts, level with Peru's Paolo Guerrero and Chile's Eduardo Vargas on 14.

The 37-year-old's 109th goal for Argentina also saw him surpass Iran's Ali Daei on the all-time international scoring charts.

Messi is second behind the prolific Cristiano Ronaldo, who has netted 130 times for Portugal.

The result (first semifinal): Argentina 2 (Alvarez 22, Messi 51) bt Canada 0.

Second semifinal: Uruguay vs. Colombia, Charlotte, 5.30 a.m.

Lions now have the oldest and youngest paddlers

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Chennai Lions had retained the oldest member – A. Sharath Kamal – for the fifth edition of the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) and on Tuesday, during the Player Draft, the team added the youngest member P.B. Abhinandh to its roster.

Sharath, who cut a cake two days ahead of turning 42, and Abhinandh, 16, will have a chance to showcase their talent as the Lions bid to regain the crown on home turf when the edition begins on August 22.

The Lions also have welcomed veteran Mouma Das to the fold.

Defending champion Goa Challengers has a revised look, with Australia's Yangzi Liu, one of the most consistent singles players in 2023, joining captain Harmeet Desai.

Ready to rock: Sharath Kamal, Yashaswini, Sathiyan, and Thakkar during the UTT 2024 player draft. EMMANUAL YOGINI

While PBG Bengaluru Smashers struck gold by adding Spanish southpaw Alvaro Robles and USA's aggressive female paddler Lily Zhang along with the retained Manika Batra, the new teams – Jaipur Patriots and Ahmedabad SG Pipers – will rely on Indian stars.

While Patriots picked the in-form Sreeja Akula up front, the Ahmedabad outfit went for Manush Shah to lead its troop.

Three Indian paddlers – Archana Kamath, Payas Jain, and Suhana Saini – have decided to give this edition a miss.

The squads: Ahmedabad SG Pipers: Manush Shah, Bernadette Szocs (Rom), Lilian Bardet (Fra), T. Reeth Rishya, Pritha Vartikar, Jash Modi.

Chennai Lions: A. Sharath Kamal, Sakura Mori (Jpn), Jules Rolland (Fra), Poymantee Baisya, Mouma Das, P.B. Abhinandh.

Dabang Delhi TTC: G. Sathiyan, Orawan Paranang (Tha), Diya Chitale, Andreas Levenko (Aut), Yashansh Malik, Lakshita Narang.

Goa Challengers: Harmeet Desai, Yangzi Liu (Aus), Yashaswini Ghorpade, Sudhanshu Grover, Sayali Wani, Mihai Bobocica (Ita).

Jaipur Patriots: Sreeja Akula, Cho Seungmin (Kor), Suthasini Sawettabut (Tha), Snehit SFR, Ronit Bhanja, Moumita Dutta.

PBG Bengaluru Smashers: Manika Batra, Alvaro Robles (Esp), Lily Zhang (USA), Jeet Chandra, Taneesha Kotecha, Anthony Amalraj.

Puneri Paltan Table Tennis: Ayhika Mukherjee, Nina Mittelham (Ger), Joao Monteiro (Por), Ankur Bhattacharjee, Anirban Ghosh, Yashini Sivashankar

U Mumba TT: Manav Thakkar, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Aruna Quadri (Ngr), Akash Pal, Kavyasree Baskar, Maria Xiao (Esp).

VILLAIN IN THE PLOT

Djokovic is Wimbledon's 'Darth Vader': McEnroe

John McEnroe says fans are treating Djokovic with the same suspicion reserved for a *Star Wars* villain. "He's like the Darth Vader compared to the classy Nadal and Federer. Who can compare to them in terms of what they brought to the table? Nobody. And then this guy Djokovic spoils the party. So then how about respecting him after all this!"

GREAT GESTURE

Former India head coach Dravid refuses T20 World Cup bonus

K.R. DEEPAK

Former India head coach Rahul Dravid has refused to take the additional bonus amount of ₹2.5 crore offered to him by the BCCI following the recent T20 World Cup triumph in the Americas. Dravid was happy to settle for the due amount similar to other coaching staff.

SPECIAL ONE

Spanish coach de la Fuente labels Yamal a 'genius'

Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said seeing Lamine Yamal's performance against France was like watching 'a genius'. "We have seen a genius. He's a player we have to take care of. I have to give him advice to keep working with the same humility and keep his feet on the floor," said de la Fuente.

POOR SHOW

'We didn't do enough', says France captain Mbappe

France captain Kylian Mbappe said his side "didn't do enough" in Tuesday's 2-1 semi-final loss to Spain and admitted he was disappointed after underperforming at Euro 2024. "They (Spain) played better than us, they deserved to go through and we are going home."

Krejcikova roars past Ostapenko in battle of French Open champs

The Czech blunts the Latvian's power-packed game to make it to the last four for the first time at the grasscourt Major; Musetti overcomes Fritz's challenge to reach his first Slam semifinal while Djokovic progresses without hitting a ball

WIMBLEDON

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Jelena Ostapenko hits a tennis ball as if there is no tomorrow. When she won the Roland-Garros singles title in 2017, she struck a whopping 54 winners but made as many errors on the slow and languid Parisian clay.

The thrill-a-minute high-risk strategy has since carried her to quarterfinals or better at each of the other three Slams. But on Wednesday, Barbora Krejcikova's controlled aggression proved the perfect riposte as the Czech triumphed 6-4, 7-6(4) to enter her maiden Wimbledon singles semifinal.

Delightful day

It was a sweet result for Krejcikova, who, after reaching the 2024 Australian Open quarters, spent five months battling injuries and winning just three matches.

She will now play 2022 champion Elena Rybakina – who blasted past Elina Svitolina 6-3, 6-2 – for a spot in the final.

"I don't have any words," Krejcikova said later.

"I had decided that I was going to leave everything I had on the court and I am happy I did it. It's a great moment in my career."

The 28-year-old was at her best in the opening set. It was the first day in many when play on the show courts didn't start with roofs closed. Soon Wimbledon park was bathed in sunlight and by the time the spectators basked a bit outdoors and settled into their seats, Krejcikova had raced to a 3-1 lead. She would soon pocket the set, winning 20 of her 23 service points and all 12 in her last three holds.

Not distracted

The Latvian's power and panache didn't bother her. Neither was she distracted by Ostapenko's return stance, wherein the latter pranced like a football goalkeeper ahead of a spot-kick routine. With a high backswing, Krejcikova caressed the ball, into zones from where Ostapenko could do nothing.

But in the second set, Krejcikova's game regressed to the mean and Ostapenko's did not lift. What ensued was a scrap. The pair traded breaks and fought each other to a standstill to 4-4.

Krejcikova struggled with her timing and also seemed to lose her footing at the baseline quite a few times.

The 2021 French Open champion even fluffed the opportunity to serve out the match after breaking Ostapenko to 5-4.

However, she summoned her best game just in time, holding to love to take the set into a tie-break and running up a 6-3 lead once there. She eventually clinched the contest on her second match-point when Ostapenko sent a forehand return long.

In about four hours after Krejcikova's moment under the sun, it was the turn of Lorenzo Musetti to experience the warmth as he ousted American Taylor Fritz 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 to make his first Major semifinal.

The Italian, seeded 25th, continued his rich form on grass – final at Queen's Club and semifinals in Stuttgart – to set up a clash against second seed and seven-time champion Novak Djokovic.

The Serbian progressed after the World No. 9 from Australia, Alex de Minaur, withdrew because of the hip injury he suffered in the closing stages of his fourth-round victory over Arthur Fils.

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Men: 2-Djokovic (SRB) w.o. 9-De Minaur (Aus); 25-Musetti (Ita) bt 13-Fritz (USA) 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-2, 3-6, 6-1.
Women: 31-Krejcikova (Cze) bt 13-Ostapenko (Lat) 6-4, 7-6(4); 4-Rybakina (Kaz) bt 21-Svitolina (Ukr) 6-3, 6-2.

Moving closer: Krejcikova, who entered the semifinal, will look to go the distance. GETTY IMAGES

Paolini basks in the limelight

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Homogenisation of courts is no longer disputed in tennis. The Roland-Garros clay is not as slow as it used to be, and the Wimbledon grass not as fast as it once was. Yet, runs to the business end at both tournaments separated by just three weeks is one of the toughest achievements.

In 2024, Jasmine Paolini has managed this feat in women's singles, finishing runner-up in Paris to Iga Swiatek four weeks ago and reaching the last four at SW19 on Tuesday with a 6-2, 6-1 thrashing of American Emma Navarro.

"I'm feeling great, and I think I played a really good match," said the 28-year-old after beating Navarro. "No mistakes. It was really perfect. Really nice to be in the semifinal here."

Curiously, grass has never been the Italian's preferred surface. She has only played 24 times on the lawns and lost 13 of those. Of the 11 wins, seven have come in the last fortnight, at Eastbourne and Wimbledon. "Maybe I didn't realise it before, but my coach was telling me that I could play well here," Paolini said. "Also, the last two years I played against [Petra] Kvitova (two-time Wimbledon champion) first round, so it was tough.

Paolini. AFP

"But I have felt great. I am hitting and moving well. I was repeating to myself, 'okay, it's nice to play on grass. You can play well.' But I didn't expect the semifinals at all."

This whole year has been of the unbelievable kind for Paolini. Prior to 2024, she had won just four singles matches at the Majors. At the first three Slams in 2024, she has 14 victories, a run that is set to propel her into the WTA top-5. A victory over Donna Vekic in the last-four on Thursday will send her into stratosphere.

"She serves really well, and she's fighting for every ball, but I'm fighting too," said Paolini on meeting Vekic. "My forehand is working well in this tournament and I hope it's going to help me versus Donna."

Atkinson makes a seven-star debut

WI IN ENGLAND

Agence Frane-Presse
LONDON

Gus Atkinson stole the spotlight from England great James Anderson's farewell by taking seven wickets on his Test debut as the West Indies collapsed to 121 on Wednesday's opening day at Lord's.

England then consolidated its advantage to be 189 for three at stumps, a lead of 68, with Zak Crawley (76) and Ollie Pope (57) both making fluent fifties.

The 26-year-old quick Atkinson took centrestage with a remarkable haul of seven for 45 in 12 overs – including a triple wicket-maiden. Atkinson's final figures were the second best by an England bowler on a Test debut behind Dominic Cork's seven for 43 against West Indies at Lord's in 1995.

The scores: West Indies 121 in 41.4 overs (Louis 27, Atkinson 7/45) vs England 189/3 in 40 overs (Crawley 76, Pope 57, Brook 25 batting). **Toss:** England.

Atkinson stole Anderson's thunder. GETTY IMAGES

Gill, Ruturaj shine as India takes 2-1 lead

INDIA IN ZIMBABWE

Press Trust of India
HARARE

Shubman Gill and Ruturaj Gaikwad produced high-quality knocks before the bowlers did their part as India outplayed Zimbabwe by 23 runs in the third T20I here on Wednesday.

Gill (66 off 49), Yashasvi Jaiswal (36 off 27) and Ruturaj (49 off 28) propelled India to 182 for four after the visitors opted to bat.

Entertaining effort

Zimbabwe was never really in the run chase despite an entertaining effort from Dion Myers (65 not out), ending at 159 for six.

Washington Sundar struck thrice while Avesh Khan took a couple of wickets.

After Avesh Khan bounced out opener Wessly Madhevere in the second over, the wickets kept falling for the home team.

Zimbabwe did well to stead the ship after losing its first five wickets for 39 runs.

The 77-run stand off 57 balls between Myers and Clive Madande (37 off 26) put much needed life into the game.

Earlier India inducted World Cup winners Jaiswal, Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube into the playing eleven, leaving out the likes of Riyan Parag in the middle order.

Blessing Muzarabani (two for 25) was the pick of the bowlers.

Ruturaj was able to milk the spinners in the middle overs and ended with four boundaries and three sixes.

Leading from the front: Gill's knock was the launchpad for what proved a match-winning total. X@BCCI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Bennett b Raza 36 *(27b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill c Raza b Muzarabani 66 *(49b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c Marumani b Raza 10 *(9b, 1x4)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Madhevere b Muzarabani 49 *(28b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Sanju Samson (not out) 12 *(7b, 2x4)*, Rinku Singh (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-2, nb-1): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 182.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-67 (Jaiswal, 8.1 overs), 2-81 (Abhishek, 10.3), 3-153 (Gill, 17.5), 4-177 (Ruturaj, 19.4).

ZIMBABWE BOWLING

Bennett 1-0-15-0, Ngarava 4-0-39-0, Chatara 3-0-30-0, Muzarabani 4-0-25-2, Raza 4-0-24-2, Masakadza 3-0-25-0, Madhevere 1-0-19-0.

ZIMBABWE

Wessly Madhevere c Abhishek b Avesh 1 *(2b)*, Tadiwanashe Marumani c Dube b Khaleel 13 *(10b, 3x4)*, Brian Bennett c Bishnoi b Avesh 4 *(5b, 1x4)*, Dion Myers (not out) 65 *(49b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Sikandar Raza c Rinku b Washington 15 *(16b, 3x4)*, Johnathan Campbell c sub (Parag) b Washington 1 *(2b)*, Clive Madande c Rinku b Washington 37 *(26b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Wellington Masakadza (not out) 18 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-2): 5; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-9 (Madhevere, 1.1), 2-19 (Marumani, 2.4), 3-19 (Bennett, 3.1), 4-37 (Raza, 6.2), 5-39 (Campbell, 6.6), 6-116 (Madande, 16.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Khaleel 4-0-15-1, Avesh 4-0-39-2, Bishnoi 4-0-37-0, Washington 4-0-15-3, Abhishek 2-0-23-0, Dube 2-0-27-0.

Toss: India; **PoM:** Washington.
India won by 23 runs to lead five-match series 2-1.
Fourth T20I: July 13, Harare, 4.30 p.m. IST.

Spanish armada turns it around to sink France in the semifinal

UEFA EURO2024 GERMANY

Reuters
MUNICH

Spain struck twice in five minutes in a pulsating first half to secure a 2-1 comeback win over France on Tuesday as a record-breaking goal from teenager Lamine Yamal and a Dani Olmo effort propelled it into the Euro 2024 final.

The 16-year-old Yamal cancelled out Randal Kolo Muani's opener with a sublime shot in the 21st minute before Olmo added another in the 25th for his third goal in the knockout stage.

The Spaniards, who have won every game of the tournament so far, will now hunt a record-breaking fourth European crown. Spain had an early chance when Yamal, the youngest player to feature in a World Cup or Euro semifinal, floated a cross but Fabian Ruiz headed over the bar.

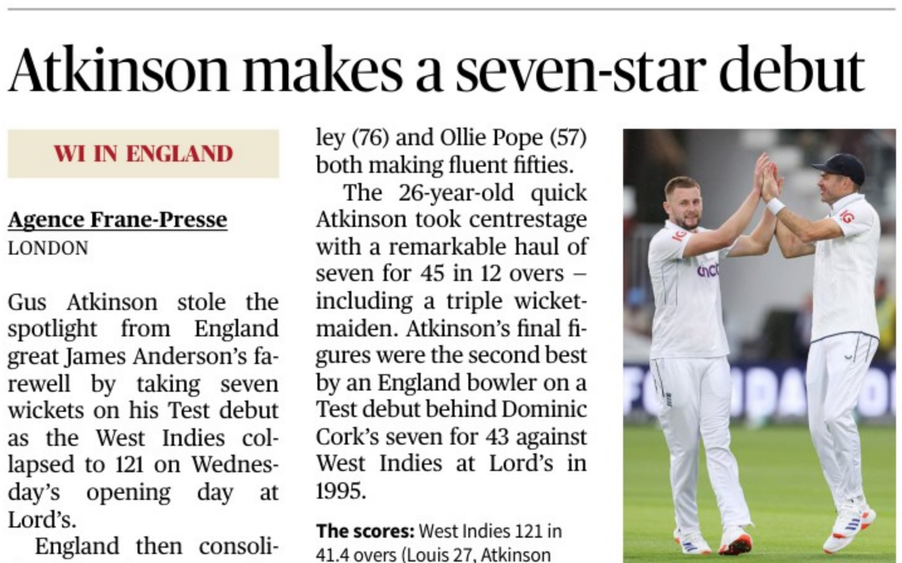
France did better from an almost identical move in the ninth minute with Kylian Mbappe crossing for Kolo Muani to head in its first goal from open play at Euro 2024.

But the Spaniards quickly turned the game around. Yamal curled a stunning left-footed effort from 25 metres in off the post to break another record held by Pele, as youngest scorer in a Euro or World Cup.

Before France had any time to recover, Olmo completed the lightning-quick comeback with a shot that was turned in by France's Jules Kounde. After the break, France had chances through Mbappe and Theo Hernandez, but could not carve out an equaliser.

The result (semifinal):

Spain 2 (Yamal 21, Olmo 25) bt France 1 (Muani 9).



Prodigy: Yamal's sublime equaliser for Spain made him the youngest-ever scorer in a Euro or World Cup. AFP

INBRIEF

Vingegaard edges Pogacar in thrilling Tour de France duel

Jonas Vingegaard edged Tadej Pogacar as a battle between the four Tour de France favourites played out over a series of hills in the central Cantal region on Wednesday. Defending champion Vingegaard reeled in Slovenian Pogacar's ferocious attacks before a thrilling finish on stage 11 with Remco Evenepoel in third at 25sec and Primoz Roglic fourth at 45sec despite a late accident.

Padukone set to travel to Paris as badminton squad mentor

The legendary Prakash Padukone is set to travel as a mentor along with the 15-member Indian badminton squad for the Paris Olympics, beginning on July 26. P. Gopi Chand, Gurusai Dutt, Agus Santosa, Vimal Kumar, and Mathias Boe will be the coaches travelling to Paris.

DYES 'A' beats Canara Bank in Hockey Karnataka league

DYES 'A' defeated Canara Bank 5-2 in the 8th Hockey Karnataka league in Bengaluru.

The results: DYES 'A' 5 (M.K. Bharath 16, 20, Aryan Uthappa 26, 36, H.M. Ananth 37) bt Canara Bank 2 (Rajinder Singh 18, M.K. Chethan 58); Customs & GST 7 (Chiran Medappa 5, 22, 54, G. Vishwas 12, 21, K.D. Biddappa 31, P.L. Thmmanna 59) bt Karnataka State Police 0.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 2, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
Wimbledon: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
TNPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 7.15 p.m.
Cycling: Tour de France, Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

Athletics team to train at three different venues to cap off preparations

Olympic Sports Centre in Poland, Antalya in Turkiye, and St. Moritz in Switzerland are the chosen sites; the athletes will assemble in Paris four days before the start of track and field events

PARIS OLYMPICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The 30-member Indian athletics team for the Olympics will train at three different venues abroad in their last leg of preparations before assembling in Paris on July 28, four days before the start of track and field competitions.

The Olympic Sports Centre in Spala, Poland; Antalya in Turkiye; and St. Moritz in Switzerland are the three foreign destinations where the Indian athletes will train in their last leg of preparations.

"The members of the national athletics team will be training at different venues to prepare for the Olympic Games, but will have to assemble in Paris on July 28," chief coach Radhakrishnan Nair said.

Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will be based in Antalya in Turkiye. "He (Chopra) has already reached Turkiye and will reach Paris on July 28," Nair said.

The Indian athletics team grew to 30 members with the addition of long jumper Jeswin Aldrin and 500m runner Ankita Dhyani, based on their rankings in the World Athletics Road to Paris system. Four race walkers – Akshdeep Singh, Paramjeet Singh Bisht, Vikash Singh, Suraj Panwar – and triple jumper Abdulla Aboobacker are currently based at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Bengaluru, while Avinash Sable and Parul Chaudhary will train in St. Moritz in Switzerland.

"Sable and Parul will join the group of athletes in Poland on July 24 and then go to Paris," Nair said.

Star attraction: Neeraj will be based at Antalya in Turkey. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Neeraj is in Turkiye and will reach Paris on July 28.
Sable and Parul will join the group of athletes in Poland on July 24 and then go to Paris
All members of the 4x400m relay team (men and women) will leave for Poland on Thursday

Ankita in Bengaluru

"Ankita (5,000m) is currently based out of Bengaluru."

All the members of the 4x400m relay team (men and women) will leave for Poland on Thursday.

Four athletes – Kishore Kumar Jena (javelin), Jyothi Yarraji (100m hurdles), Jeswin Aldrin (long jump) and Praveen Chithravel (triple jump) – reached Poland earlier this week.

"Annu Rani (javelin), Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot put) and Abha Khatua (shot put) will also leave for Poland on Thursday," the chief coach added.

Nayar in fray to join Gambhir's support staff

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

A day after Gautam Gambhir was officially announced as India head coach, Abhishek Nayar – Gambhir's colleague as part of the Kolkata Knight Riders' support staff – is tipped to join Team India as the assistant coach.

Nayar is understood to be among the list of names suggested by Gambhir for various positions in the team's support staff.

According a BCCI official, Nayar has been sounded out and preliminary discussions have been positive of him being elevated to the national team set-up. Being a close friend of India captain Rohit Sharma could also work in his favour.

For bowling coach, feelers have been sent to R. Vinay Kumar and L. Balaji. There is a school of thought in the BCCI hierarchy that to ensure continuity in the thought-process, at least one of the current coaching staff members should be retained. It will be interesting to see if Gambhir is asked to work with either Vikram Rathour (batting) or Paras Mhambrey (bowling) or T. Dilip (fielding).

Nayar. FILE PHOTO

Selection dilemma

With time running out for the selection meeting for the limited overs' tour to Sri Lanka , starting on July 27, the BCCI is yet to announce a new selector. It's been three weeks since the Cricket Advisory Committee interviewed candidates for the selector's post.

Interestingly, the BCCI has still not made the outgoing selector's name public. While it is widely believed that Salil Ankola will make way for an incoming selector from the north zone, chief selector Ajit Agarkar has served out his 12-month tenure at the end of the T20 World Cup.

Shericka Jackson suffers apparent injury

Associated Press
SZEKESFEHERVAR

World 200m champion Shericka Jackson pulled up with an apparent injury late in a race on Tuesday as part of the Hungarian Athletics Grand Prix. She was in front and nearing the finish line when she suddenly shut it down.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Aneeshwar, Karthik shine in Swastic Union (2)'s win

Aneeshwar Gautam (124) and C.A. Karthik (4/38 and 67) starred for Swastic Union (2) against Mount Joy in the KSCA Group I, Division I league here.

In another match, A. Siddharth (146) and Srujan Nandan (116) scored centuries for Friends Union CC (1) and Vultures CC respectively.

The scores: Friends Union (1) 286 in 77.4 overs (A. Siddharth 146, Adithya Nair 4/35) drew with Vultures CC 354/7 in 81.3 overs (Srujan Nandan 116, D. Nischal 42, K.L. Shrijith 59, R. Smaran 27, Kruthik Krishna 42 n.o., Praveen Dubey 42).

Herons CC 302 in 83.3 overs (Prajwal Pavan 48, S. Vinodh 109 n.o., Aditya Mani 57, K.M. Pravesh 29, Nischith Rao 3/56, S. Bhargav 3/74, Rahul Prasanna 3/57) drew with Rajajinagar Cricketers 264 in 64.1 overs (Sireesh Balgaar 33, Nikhil Vedanth 57, N. Rohan 34, S. Shivaraj 76, Aditya Mani 4/72).

Bangalore Occasionals 168 in 56.1 overs (Hemanth Shinde 27, Kush Marathe 42, Varun Rao 45, Himadri 5/45) and 136/3 in 31 overs (Bhuvan Raju 36, Kranthi Kumar 33 n.o., Rahul Singh 39 n.o.) drew with Cambridge CC 197 in 71 overs (M.R. Jayanth 27, Prithvi Sadanand 28, Shubhang Hegde 54, Abhay Rangan 29, Kranthi Kumar 3/32, G.D. Naman 3/24).

Mount Joy 212 in 57.4 overs (J. Suchith 66, Aditya Somanna 37, C.A. Karthik 4/38, Nathan D'Mello 3/23) and 106/6 in 50 overs (Samarth Srinivas 35, N. Prateekh 26, Nathan D'Mello 3/44) drew with Swastic Union (2) 335 in 68.3 overs (Yashwant 60, Aneeshwar Gautam 124, C.A. Karthik 67, J. Suchith 3/69, Goutham Mishra 4/107).

Swastic Union (1) 291 in 82.5 overs (Rohan Patil 86, Thippa Reddy 76, Sankalp Shettennavar 29, S. Suraj 4/74) drew with Coles CC 274 in 65.5 overs (L.R. Chethan 37, Vinay Sagar 92, Smayan Srivastav 44 n.o., K. Shashikumar 5/78).

Jawans CC 381/9 in 90 overs (S.U. Karthik 65, Harshil 89, S.S.G. Rohiet 30, Sumit Kumar 95, S. Ishaan 31, Vidyadhar Patil 3/64, Pranav Bhatia 3/95) drew with Bangalore United (1) 216 in 61 overs (M. Arsalaan 79, Abhinav Manohar 85, S. Ishaan 5/41) and 74/1 in 14 overs (Akash Shetty 46 n.o.).

Young champs: Keerthan and Akriti with their reward.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Raghavendra and Rahul excel for Palar SC

N. Raghavendra (105) and Rahul Ihjallikar (87 n.o.) powered Palar SC past Friends Union CC (2) in the KSCA Group I, Division III league here.

The scores: Palar SC 370/6 in 50 overs (N. Raghavendra 105, S. Abhijit 56, M. Manoj 54 n.o., Rahul Ihjallikar 87 n.o., Dhruv Vasu 3/71) bt Friends Union (2) 130 in 35.2 overs (V. Saatwik 33, Dhruv Vasu 39, Anand Doddamani 4/33, Syed Khaja 3/30).

Neptune CC 290/9 in 50 overs (Manjesh Reddy 111, C.K. Akshay 48, Yathish 3/25, G. Pradeep 3/77) bt South End SC 155 in 44.5 overs (Roshan Raju 48, V. Akash 25, P. Hrishikesh 28, Rayan Ahmed 4/10).

Jolly Cricketers 210/8 in 40 overs (Manikanth Shivanand 46, J.P. Aravind 25, Mohammed Azharuddin 36 n.o.) bt BEL Colony Recreation Club 142 in 38.2 overs (Manish Upadhyay 28, Yashwant Reddy 4/11) (Overs reduced due to wet outfield).

RV College of Engineering Gymkhana 215/7 in 50 overs (K.B. Vivek 42, N. Shreyas 30, H.K. Vishwanath 57 n.o., Kotra Sasank 37 n.o., Prithviraj 4/22) lost to Jayanagar Cricketers 218/4 in 32.4 overs (C.H. Nayan 78 n.o., Prithviraj 71 n.o.).

Hammonds 115 in 31 overs (Satyam Goudar 32, Angadraj Sangam 4/34) lost to Vijaya CC (Malur) 116/8 in 25.3 overs (Ashwin Ram 32 n.o., S. Vishwa 5/23).

Jayanagar United Cricketers 223/9 in 50 overs (Tejaswy Kolchippu 39, Ajendra Suresh 48, G. Ravi 33, Milan Bopanna 3/37, P. Dhakshath 4/30) bt Friends XI CC 177 in 38.3 overs (S. Manjunath 28, T.M. Nagarjun 30, Yashaswin Gowda 35, S. Dhananjaya 27, Sundar 4/42).

Bangalore SC 150 in 38.2 overs (Rohith Gowda 50, Vivek Naik 3/31, Sarfaraz Ashraf 3/35) lost to Young Lions Club 153/6 in 33.1 overs (Dheeraj Kumar 45, R. Yuvraj 47, Deepak Shanker 26 n.o., Nithin Naidu 3/23).

Cavaliers CC 240 in 42.5 overs (Mithesh Madhan 57, Sachin Sreedhar 35, Pavan Deshpande 69, Vivekananda Hiremath 27, S. Shivaprasad 3/44, Niksheap Khanapur 4/25) lost to City Gymkhana 241/5 in 44.4 overs (Nagesh Nayaka 30, Abhishek 83, Manu Ravindra 65, Pavan Deshpande 3/64).

Keerthan and Akriti triumph

Keerthan Vishwas and E. Akriti won the boys' and girls' titles respectively in the SAT Sports AITA under-14 championship series tennis tournament at SAT Sports courts here.

The results (finals): Boys: Keerthan Vishwas bt Svar Santhosh 6-3, 6-0. **Girls:** E. Akriti bt S. Eshita 6-0, 6-0.

KR Puram wins big

KR Puram whipped Mahalakshmi Layout 11-0 in the KSFA Chief Minister Cup football tournament here.

The results: KR Puram 11 bt Mahalakshmi Layout 0; Yelahanka 2 drew with Shivaji Nagar 2.

Balaji enters doubles quarterfinals

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Sriram Balaji, seeded No.1 with Gonzalo Escobar of Ecuador, cruised into the doubles quarterfinals with 6-3, 6-0 win over Boris Arias and Federico Zeballos in the €148,625 Challenger tennis tournament in Braunschweig, Germany.

Other results: €148,625 Challenger, Braunschweig: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Matwe Middelkoop (Ned) & Denys Molchanov (Ukr) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 4-6, 6-2, [10-5].
€148,625 Challenger, Salzburg: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Jakob Schnaitter & Mark Wallner (Ger) bt Mateus Alves (Bra) & Divij Sharan 7-6(2), 3-6, [10-5].
$25,000 ITF men, Tianjin: First round: S. Mukund bt Jin Yuquan (Chn) 6-3, 6-1.
$15,000 ITF men, Litija, Slovenia: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Gabriele Bosio (Ita) & Faris Zakaria (Egy) bt Manas Dhamne & Zig Sesko (Slo) 6-4, 6-0.
$15,000 ITF, Nakhon Si Thammarat: Men: First round: Dhakshineswar Suresh bt Thantub Suksumran (Tha) 6-3, 6-4.
Women: First round: Punnin Kovapitukted (Tha) bt Pooja Ingale 6-2, 6-2; Honoka Kobayashi (Jpn) bt Abhaya Vemuri 6-0, 4-6, 6-4; Akanksha Nitture bt Sofiia Nagornaia (Isr) 7-5, 3-6, 6-2.
Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Riya & Chiara Girelli (Ita) bt Baylen Brown (USA) & Polina Isakova (Ukr) 6-1, 4-6, [10-8].
$25,000 ITF women, Aschaffenburg, Germany: First round: Julie Struplova (Cze) bt Zeel Desai 6-1, 7-5. **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Stefania Bojica (Rou) & Zeel Desai bt Tessa Brockmann & Julia Middendorf (Ger) 6-4, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF women, Lakewood, USA: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Amelia Honer (USA) & Teja Tirunelveli bt Meghna Arunkumar & Patsy Daughters (USA) 6-1, 6-3.

We regretfully announce the demise of

Mr. PHILIP EAPEN

Senior Advisor, MRF Ltd.

On July 7, 2024 in Chennai.

PHILIP EAPEN
(1937 - 2024)

MRF proudly remembers a remarkable man for his **66-year tenure** and his extraordinary contributions to the growth and success of MRF Tyres. A man of immense experience and wisdom, he will forever be our guiding light.

Funeral will be held on Thursday, 11th July, 2024 in Chennai.

Prayer Service: 2.30 pm at his residence in Chennai.

Funeral Service: 3.15 pm at St. Peter's & St. Paul's Orthodox Church, New Colony, Thomas Nagar, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107.

Burial: 4.00 pm at Kilpauk Cemetery, Kilpauk Garden Colony, Chennai - 600 102.

Deeply mourned by:

Wife: Mrs. Laila Eapen

Sons: Ajoy Philip, *Late Anuj Philip* and Atul Philip

Meera Jacob Philip, Diya Philip, Talia Philip, Mihir Eapen Philip, Sneha Susan Philip, Meghna Philip, Shruti Rajan, Kian George Philip and Arin Joseph Philip.

From the grieving members of the MRF Family.